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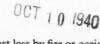
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All

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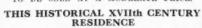
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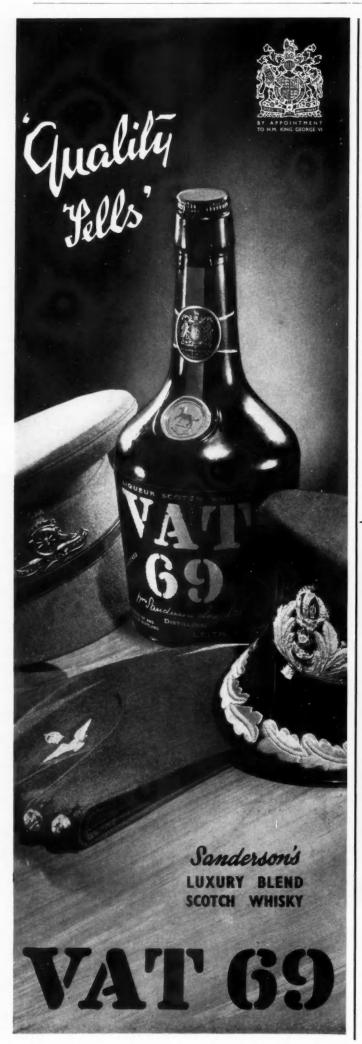
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COUNTRY LIFE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, 1940

Vol. LXXXVIII. No. 2280



Harlip

MRS. DAVID NIVEN

161, New Bond St., W.I.

Mrs. David Niven is the only daughter of Flight-Lieutenant William Rollo, M.C., and Lady Kathleen Rollo; her marriage to Captain David Niven, The Rifle Brigade, younger son of the late Mr. W. G. Niven, The Berkshire Yeomanry, and the late Lady Comyn-Platt, took place last week

COUNTRY LIFE

S: 2-10, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.2.

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*Advertisements: Tower House, Southampton Street, W.C.2

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POSTAL CHARGES.—The Editor reminds correspondents and contributors that any communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. Notice is given that MSS, submitted will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

Postages on this Issue: Inland 24., Canada 11d., Abroad 2d.

RE-BUILDING AND RE-PLANNING

T is possible that the price of victory in this war will be the virtual destruction of much of London as we have known it. At the present rate of damage it will take several years to lay London low, but even a few months of indiscriminate destruction will be a big price-mathematicians may have to enlist the services of astronomers in estimating the cost-but it will be doubly worth while. Marshal Goering is welcome to believe that by throwing his 'planes at London he is breaking the spirit of the people. Anybody who has had the good fortune to work in recent days among the folk most savagely pounded the patient, spirited Cockneys of eastern London-could tell him that the murder of their families and friends, the destruction of their homes and goods, is having exactly the opposite effect: creating a grimly stubborn determination to endure everything so long as the Nazi végime is finally smashed. When that is accomplished, and much of this historic metropolis lies in ruin, a new world and a new London will become possible. In London there will be the supreme opportunity, of which visionary architects and town-planners have dreamed, of rubbing out for ever miles of out-of-date slums, outmoded residential streets, congested main thoroughfares, misplaced factories, and the accumulated evils and mistakes of 250 years.

It is impossible not to love London, with all her faults. Artists, scholars, historians, and the man in the street may be fated to lose world-famous buildings and irreplaceable records before the enemies of mankind themselves lie in the dust. apart from a score or so of great national monuments, the Queen Anne and Georgian residential squares, and some Regency terraces, it must be confessed that, but for the glamour of fond associations, the greater part of London could well be demolished without any but financial loss. Like the mediæval city destroyed in 1666, London has gradually become ill-fitted for its function as a twentieth-century world-capital. Sooner or later it would have had to be entirely re-built, and if the *Luftwaffe* compels us to replan it utterly rather than in the piecemeal fashion that would be inevitable in normal circumstances, the bombardments of 1940 would be regarded by the survivors, as was the Great Fire,

as a blessing in disguise.

At this juncture it is highly instructive to read the book by Mr. T. F. Reddaway, "The Re-building of London after the Great Fire," reviewed on another page, and to see how the grandiose schemes for replanning, made by Wren, Evelyn, and other leading men, failed to materialise. Contrary to popular tradition, this was not due to the mean conservatism of the citizens, but, Mr. Reddaway establishes conclusively, to the entire lack of the administrative machinery necessary for town planning. The principles of compensation and re-allotment of sites were accepted, but it was found impossible to discover the exact nature of the innumerable and complicated properties in the City on which to base these principles. The same problem would arise in a replanning of London to-morrow, but now every property is recorded and valued, every square foot mapped, and the principle on which re-allotment could be based has long been accepted by town-planners. A new London would have wider streets, a far greater proportion of open space to buildings, a reasonable distribution of residential, industrial, and commercial areas, a Thames largely bordered by gardens instead of unsightly wharves, sun and air where there is now darkness, great arterial exits and belts of open land: all the things men dream of but could not have so long as London stands. The chief reason they could not have it was the immense value of the properties needing demolition.

The solution, which was regarded as too drastic in times of peace but will be hailed as a blessed simplification of our diffi-

culties after the war, is the Pooling Principle. By that means the value of all properties affected by a replanning scheme is pooled, and the increment from the replanned area distributed according to each owner's proportional share in the whole. In this way the owner of a specific plot, irrespective of whether it is used as an open space or for a skyscraper, receives his proportional share of the increment of the whole area, while the planner is free, as he should be, to lay out the city for the well-being of its inhabitants and the nation as a whole instead of in the interests of a small number of individuals. Nor does the State lose its considerable income from the taxation of property-owners, as would be the case were the land nationalised.

In the months to come it will no doubt become evident how extensive are the preliminary clearances made by the enemy. Meanwhile the world, and every Briton, is paying tribute in succour and pity to those out of whose present sufferings the

finest city in the world will one day arise.

MASSACRE OF INNOCENTS

A WAVE of horror such as not even the Nazis had yet acheived swept the civilised world at the news of the death-roll on the torpedoed ship carrying refugee children to Canada. For only seven children to have survived out of ninety is a most grievous toll, and assuredly the tragedy will be remembered in history among the most poignant of disasters at sea. It is no comfort to bereaved parents, many of whom have lost their homes as well, to reflect that all the many of whom have lost their homes as well, to reflect that all the children on the other refugee ship torpedoed were saved, or that three thousand children have already been carried to safety under the official scheme, and many more by private arrangement. Yet those are the facts against which this pittful blow must be set. Approximately ninety-eight per cent. of British children sent over seas that must be full of danger have safely arrived, and, but for the circumstances of this particular disaster—a cold and stormy night in mid-Atlantic—the proportion of survivals would undoubtedly have been somewhat higher. Every ship is liable to be torpedoed without warning by the Germans. Every ship is liable to be torpedoed without warning by the Germans. The questions that must, and certainly will, be most seriously examined are whether the present methods of transport and accommodation for children, particularly during the coming winter months, cannot be improved to guard against a repetition of such tragically high loss on any particular ship.

THERE can be no doubt that in these days, when difficulties of com-THERE can be no doubt that in these days, when difficulties of communication and transport are the most insistent if not the most trying of the evils that beset us, there is a definite temptation for most of us to divide up the servants of the public who minister to us in these directions according to the attitude which they adopt towards the public and their duties. It is to be feared that the establishment of His Majesty's Postmaster General have not come very high on the list, though we understand that the recent delays are by no means due to any "Safety first" attitude on the part of the men themselves—they are only too willing to take risks, and various proposals for speeding things up have been made by them. The official panjandrums are, however, unable to come to decisions and will not give a lead. Meanwhile the railways are tackling a thankless job which has recently become however, unable to come to decisions and will not give a lead. Meanwhile the railways are tackling a thankless job which has recently become far more difficult and thankless still, and, so far as can be seen, they are tackling it well. Anyhow, their employees are still in high favour with the travelling public. As for the 'bus and coach drivers, nothing is too good to say for the way in which they are sticking to their jobs in the most worrying and trying circumstances. A public undergoing all sorts of new experiences and requiring all sorts of unproducible information is not an easy customer to deal with. But many 'bus drivers and conductors take it in their stride—one supposes they do stride sometimes—and both in country and town face dangers without number times—and both in country and town face dangers without number and perform incredible feats of safe and successful driving through the darkness of the black-out. Most have long ago distinguished between the "Alert" and the "Alarm." But the petrol-pessessing section of the public themselves is not always so gallant. The majority of motorists are most kindly in giving lifts, but a few large half-empty cars are still to be seen. Some motorists hang a placard of their destination on their bonnet; and the hopeful pedestrian might well display one too.

THE EQUINOCTIAL GALES

ENGLISH sailors are no strangers to the south-west wind and the equinoctial gales; and even the veriest landsmen love the sting of the salt in the rain that the wild tempests of autumn and spring carry from over the ocean. The fishermen and sailors of our western carry from over the ocean. The fishermen and sailors of our western and southern coasts, those who have carried the flag of this country to the ends of the Seven Seas, unlike the fair-weather sailors of most nations, revel in the tearing winds and rolling seas. They are part of the great days of mast and sail, and it is worth while remembering that the great days of mast and sail, and it is worth while remembering that it is the Viking races of Scandinavia who share with us the great traditions of the windjammer, those lovely ships that until lately brought the cargoes of Australasia roaring round Cape Horn. The equinoctial gales have been of use to the Naval dispositions of this country on many cccasions. If we cannot historically give them credit for a triumphant part in the defeat of the Armada, the July squalls, the persistent rough water and the intermittent storms of 1588 must have been very like our usual equinoctial weather, and had it not suddenly changed there can be no doubt that the whole of the King of Spain's army and ships would have been cast ignominiously on the shores of Zeeland. As it was, Drake's seamanship was almost sufficient to do the same. The sudden change this year from the dry calm of early September must have recalled the seamanship was almost sufficient to do the same. The student within year from the dry calm of early September must have recalled the fact that Napoleon's barges were often held and battered by bad weather in the French ports and the mouth of the Scheldt. Those who rose

y



HOP-PICKING DE LUXE ON THE GREEN AT GOUDHURST The shortage of hop-pickers in parts of Kent was made good by local villagers. But as most of these had their normal work to do, and could not waste precious time going to and from the hop gardens, farmers have made the innovation of carting the bines to central picking stations, in this case the pretty village green. Many of these volunteer pickers are giving what they earn to local Spitfire funds.

from a restless night after the first storm may well have recalled the inscription upon Drake's monument, which reads: "Ventos suos inscription upon Drake's monument, which reads: dimisit, et dissipati sunt."

A NEW AMERICAN CHAMPION

A NEW AMERICAN CHAMPION

COMPETITIVE golf seems a very long way off, almost a game played upon some other planet. Nevertheless, many British golfers will have enjoyed a moment's surcease in reading the bare result of the American Amateur Championship and will want to congratulate Mr. Richard Chapman on his victory. He has many friends here and has been a faithful supporter of our own Amateur Championship. Three times has he played in it, at St. Annes, at Sandwich and, on the last occasion of its being held, at Hoylake in 1939. Each time he fought his way through to the last eight, and at Hoylake, though he had to play with a back muscle strapped up, he was obviously most dangerous. Those who saw the match will not easily forget his defeat of his fellow-countryman, the then holder, Mr.—or as we generally think of him, Charlie—Yates. His putting in that round was of the deadliness that in the days of the late Walter Travis used to spread an American terror across the links. There is no more enthusiastic or ambitious golfer, and it is pleasant to hear of his success.

WESTERN HARVEST

Muted purples, shaken blues, dim shadow And whispering western winds are all this meadow As harvest offers to the grave grey skies;

Knapweed, harebells, sombre darkling grasses Where soft brown butterflies, as the summer passes, Like sea-tossed spirits drift and fall and rise.

Bitter the chalice the reapers of this field Must drink, black bread is all their toil shall yield, Twilight has spread its wing across these hours.

Here are no golds, no scents of sun-kissed meadows, Here in the west our hatvest is of shadows, Winds and shaken grasses, purple flowers.

DIANA McLoghlen.

THE R.H.S. RED CROSS SALE—BY POST

THE Royal Horticultural Society's Red Cross Sale, which was to have been held at Vincent Square, Westminster, on September 24th, 25th and 26th, will not now take place as advertised, but will be conducted by post. The catalogue, which is sold for the benefit of the Red Cross, price 2s. 6d., post free, may be had from the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London, S.W.I. Each catalogue contains a form for the making of bids, and completed forms should reach the honorary auctioneers not later than October 19th, but earlier if possible.

SILVER FOR THE TREASURY

A HUNDRED and thirty-eight lots of antique silver plate, presented to the Treasury as a contribution to the war effort, are being auctioned by Messrs. Christie on Thursday next, October 3rd. It is of consistently high standard, for the most part useful pieces of eighteenth entury date, bearing the marks of many reputable makers—mugs, ugs, candlesticks, waiters, cutlery. The Hon. Francis Curzon has iven two silver-gilt race cups won by Humphry Osbaldeston's horses in 1771 and 1773 respectively, and Sir William Hicking three important dizabethan tiger-ware jugs.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

The Demand for Charcoal-Futility !- The Last Day in the Old Home

Major C. S. Jarvis

HAVE received a number of most interesting and informative letters on the subject of charcoal burning for which I am most grateful, and one of them was from Colonel Julyan, who reminded me that two articles from him on charcoal had appeared in COUNTRY LIFE last winter. I recollect the articles, but all my old COUNTRY LIFEs have gone to the troops, and back numbers are not easily obtain-

able now.

All my correspondents are agreed upon two points, and one is that larch and fir produce very indifferent charcoal, and the other that the old-fashioned system of the charcoal pit cannot compete with the modern retort. The charcoal pit requires a real expert—a man who has devoted his life to the calling, and one who is prepared to spend day and night by his fires ready to attend to the draught in case of a change of wind; and such men are extremely rare, if not almost extinct, to-day. A great objection to the pit system is that the charcoal produced is not pure enough for modern requirements, for the earth with which the fires are damped down must result in a certain amount of grit getting the fires are damped down must result in a certain amount of grit getting into the product. Grit is most undesirable in artificial silk stockings and papier-mâché, in which charcoal figures, and it is absolutely fatal in the manufacture of high explosives.

The trade had a certain revival during the last war, when charcoal was issued to the troops for use in the trench braziers, and these braziers, many of us will remember, were the most attractive part of open trench furnishing, but not so attractive when the uninitiated brought the brazier into a dug-out. The first reaction, with the resulting warmth and glow, was one of ease and pleasure, but the results were often

The Arabs of Arabia are great users and burners of charcoal, and the system they adopt is similar in every way to that employed by the old system they adopt is similar in every way to that employed by the old charcoal burners of all our great forests, but they are most discriminating in the wood they use. Tamarisk, which grows freely and to great size in most of the dry torrent beds, is regarded as soft and useless, and they stake their faith in a desert acacia—the sayal—and a big broom known as "rhutm." An appealing side of the charcoal trade in the East is the fact that a very useful sideline can be worked up with it, as the product in sacks on a camel's back resists the thrust of the anti-contrabundity's stillate, and it is expressed to the sate of the anticontrabandist's stiletto, and it is comparatively easy to get through with a load of charcoal worth only £1, but in it a few slabs of the narcotic hashish worth over £100. This particular side of the charcoal trade, however, does not function in England.

THE other evening, when a patrol of our fighter aeroplanes had disappeared in a south-westerly direction, "going to the sound of the guns," a solitary German bomber came down from the clouds looking for a suitable target, and in this respect we had very little to offer him. There are our local gasworks, but the single gasometer is not a very large one, and it would take a very skilful bomber to score a hit here. Then there is the railway station of our little wandering branch line, which is of such supreme unimportance that neither the military nor the Home Guard take the slightest trouble to guard it.

The aeroplane circled round for some five minutes, and, if the pilot had any knowledge of map-reading, he must have been aware that five minutes' flying in almost any direction would have brought him over something that more or less approximated to that very misused description a "military objective." As this, however, would have brought him within range of anti-aircraft fire he was discreet, and, taking careful aim, dropped four bombs on a residence that even the local

careful aim, dropped four bombs on a residence that even the local agents refrain from calling desirable. As an example of the complete and utter futility of the countryside bombing that is now taking place over England, this stands out as a masterpiece, and if the Germans think this sort of thing is going to disturb the customary phlegm of the country-man they have, as the Americans say, "another think coming to them." The only feeling they arouse is hilarity tinged with unutterable contempt.

ONE of the stock pictures so popular in those far off Victorian days that are now a positive godsend to the modern novelist, when he is five hundred words short in a chapter and desires to be facetious about a period of which he knows little, is "The Last Day in the Old Home." It was not quite so common as "The Monarch of the Glen," on which all the aforesaid novelists harp when they wish to brighten a page, and it was usually one of a pair, the other being the Cavalier-Roundhead picture called "Where Is Your Father?" "The Last Day in the Old Home" pointed some sort of moral—the result, one imagines, of modern taxation and advancement combined with old-time extravagance—and in the hall of one of the stately homes of England, where the furniture was marked with sale numbers, a young man in where the furniture was marked with sale numbers, a young man in the flashy clothes of the period drank his own health in champagne, and, surrounded by his tearful family, looked for the last time at the home of his forebears.

home of his forebears.

I saw a pathetic little scene the other evening that recalled this old picture, for, with the gathering of the last of the harvest, a vast aerodrome is being levelled and laid out on some four hundred acres of rich farmland. Gangs of men and a division of giant excavators are working furiously in clouds of dust all day. Long hedgerows and lines of ditches disappear and are merged into the flat level; the winter swedes and mangolds are crushed beneath the iron wheels; a cheerful little stream is enclosed in huge concrete pipes; and, saddest of all, the scattered spinneys of old oaks are crashing down, to be drawn off to the roadside by tractors.

to the roadside by tractors.

Standing disconsolately on the small remaining patch of green swedes, and watching the scene of destruction and obliteration, was a brilliant cock pheasant, and behind him in a group were a hen and eight half-grown birds. To them it was indeed the last day in the old home.

"DOVES OF WAR"

THE TRAINING AND USE OF CARRIER-PIGEONS BY THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

By IGNATIUS PHAYRE

O-DAY'S "mechanised" land armies may be without horses or the dogs that figured in the Four Years' War—1014–18. But it seems strange that Noah's own "doves" should come back again. Our Admiralty at one time maintained its own cotes of homing pigeons. To-day these graceful flyers-by-instinct have been brought to an even higher pitch of utility in all branches of our sky Service.

these graceful flyers-by-instinct have been brought to an even higher pitch of utility in all branches of our sky Service.

The Air Ministry have even asked us to destroy at sight any stray hawks or falcons so as to assist in "Defence of the Realm." The latter birds of prey had long been protected by an Act of Parliament. But both are now classed as "enemy interceptor-fighters" because of the havoc they work among these

pigeons.

The pigeon's instinct to fly home—haply to hungry chicks—has been known ever since the Greeks sent by them "results" of the Olympic Games. In modern days Belgium was, and still is, the centre of a racing-pigeon sport that goes back to 1818. Then trial flights were tested between Paris and the famous Liège forts on the Meuse. Before Queen Victoria's Coronation we had taken up this hobby, and races were put on from Exeter, Plymouth and Penzance to London.

The speed of carrier pigeons was never great: in one match it reached 1,836yds, a minute. But the distances they can cover are incredible. In America older birds have covered over 1,000 miles in the Western States where weather conditions are perfect. Before the present war broke out these pigeons were recruited by our Government from private fanciers. All birds were known by their performance in test flights; and in actual Air Force service "casualties" were gravely enquired into. Failure of birds to return might mean that several of our heroic bombers or fighters had been left tossing in a flimsy rubber boat far out in the North Sea—perhaps without oars or hope of speedy rescue. To-day all land 'planes that leave our shores for offensive raids on Germany or occupied lands carry as part of their safety outfit two well trained "homers" in a wicker basket of special make for their release.

One has only to remember that a single enemy machine-gun burst can damage the wireless apparatus or destroy it outright. So in the case of a forced descent these intelligent "doves" can be sent out with an urgent S.O.S.

appeal. The derelict aircraft they may have left has haply located appeal. a magnetic mine laid in the path of foodship convoys. And its crew may have guided those vessels into safer channels. Or our Coastal Command can explode these diabolic contraptions with their own machine-guns and even rescue the drowning crew of a merchant vessel that has been torpedoed. So these "Doves of which our ma-War chines carry go on duty with this written cry for help already tied to a blue-tinted form which is clipped to each bird's leg. On that little tube is left a white patch intended as a last-moment writing-pad. Then just before the feathered envoy is "tossed up" by skilled hands a map-reference is scrawled on the blank patch by one of the wrecked airmen. This affords a chance of these loose one pigeons while yet damaged machine yet a still in the air. Or it can save trouble at sea if the bird's release has to be made from a rubber boat into which

the shot-down crew have to scramble as their stricken 'plane strikes the stormy water below. Often, when our losses are announced by the Ministry, the added note "—— of our pilots are safe" is due to the pigeons.

At a training station one sees our National Pigeon Service at its best under scientific officers. These have a keen audience of sympathetic lads who see in these birds their own possible saviours in a future plight. The train-



A TRAINER AT THE LOFTS LOOSING HIS BIRDS FOR MORNING EXERCISE

ing-loft is spacious and airy, kept free from vermin and provided with baths as well as rock-salt and crushed mortar for the use of winged recruits. These fly out for daily exercise and come back through wire screens that open inwards, when the return of each one is signalled by an electric bell. Their food is fresh greenstuff, with beans, maize, peas, broken rice and millet; but, of course, this varies with season and locality. Each dovebrood contains a couple of eggs, on which the parents sit in turn, with the cock having a lighter share of incubation.

At the age of four months, training begins

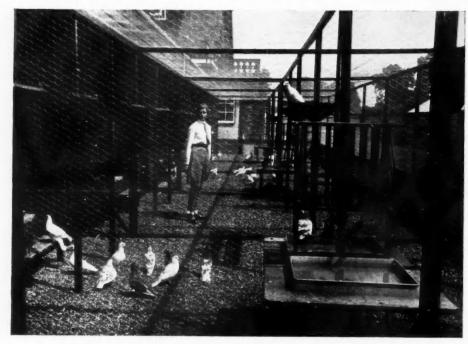
At the age of four months, training begins in warm weather. A pigeon will be taken out in a closed wicket basket and set free at gradually increasing distances from the home loft until a twenty-mile flight is covered, with periods of rest in between. It takes five years or so before a "carrier" attains its best. The younger ones are schooled alone, so that they may "think" for themselves and need not rely upon the veteran homers. Private fanciers consider that birds who have young ones in the nest are best for the longer flights: it is claimed that these will return more surely and at higher speed when they have such family cares on the avian mind! Races are started by a "tosser" of experience, who takes note of the time when each pigeon was loosed. They ascend in swift spirals till they perceive, by some mysterious instinct, some horizon landmark which their vision can mark and appraise. No entrant is judged to have reached home till it has actually passed through the loft door and rung its own automatic bell.

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At the Signals Office of an R.A.F. station you will find them ideally housed and cared for in wired pens with a special attendant to look after them. Placed in baskets and carried to the air-field, they may be said to have joined His Majesty's Forces as "flying recruits." For this reason you will find on Sir Archibald Sinclair's accounts such items as green vetch, peas and grit. The small payment handed to private owners is only a grateful gesture



HEADQUARTERS OF AN R.A.F. "RECRUITING STATION" Here the birds are looked after with scientific care

from our Government to acknowledge a pigeon-mobilisation (and National Register).

Birds in the present war have flown from the Norway coast to their own homing-stations: but such flights need experienced handling (or "tossing") by the despatcher. He knows that when he frees the bird from one of the bombers of the Coastal Command or Fleet Air Arm, that feathered messenger may have to face a slipsteam of wind which may be blowing at 350 m.p.h. This calls for special research or the part of the civilian P.S.O. (or Pigeon Service Oficer). The trainers have tried many systems of regaining the birds from aircraft actually in flight or supposed to be shot down by enemy action. In or supposed to be shot down by enemy action. In door, or from the turret in another type of hine. Before the ordeal of "slipstream" and m chine. Before the ordeal of "slipstream" and w id-eddies were understood these messengers were at to suffer at the moment of their own release. I als were even made in "tossing" with only the at ious bird-head and bright eyes showing, while the delicate bodies and legs were wrapped round with now spaper. To-day these pigeons are set free facing the direction in which a 'plane is swooping at highest ed. In this way they can be "dropped" clear with fooled wings—just as if each were a human pilot facing through space before his parachute had opened. So do the birds acquire a knack of avoiding the moments own "gale" before attempting to fly on the ir own "power."



MEN LOADING BASKET FEATHERED MESSENGERS INTO A FIGHT-ING PLANE

Our pilots—indeed, all officers, ashore and afloat—are most considerate of these gentle "soldiers of the King." They will tell you how one of them on patrol duty in the North Sea suddenly laid an egg! She was about to be sent off on a trial test, but was at once flown home in another machine to be seconded for domestic work. Owners on the National Register compiled by the Air Ministry must have at least twenty pigeons. And any message will be taken from a bird and telephoned to the station concerned. If the fire of charge by the G.P.O. Gradually this avian system spread to the War Office until the Home Guards could also release their own pigeons between our osts and local headquarters. So might the birds be used as an adjunct to our defence when all other the proof communication had been destroyed.

ns of communication had been destroyed.

No wonder our fighting Services warn thoughtpersons: "Do not harm the homing pigeon.
pot-value—even in rationing-time—may be only
illing, while the message it may carry can mean
r death to our air-pilots." As an added warning
peace-time fine was hugely increased, and even

ol sentence added to it!

Our King has presented many of his own bringham "homers" for service with the R.A.F. of these noted birds have been flown from poland Bight and the Danish coast when heed-Hudson machines of the Coastal Command been disabled. been disabled.



WRITING AN S.O.S. MESSAGE FOR A TRIAL TEST The paper is rolled into the tiny tube on the pigeon's leg



WIRELESS OPERATOR OF A BOMBER EXAMINING "HOMER" FROM THE SANDRINGHAM COTES In event of a forced landing the pigeon would carry home vital information



AN OBSERVER "TOSSING" HIS BIRD FROM THE TAIL OF A FLYING-BOAT

HISTORIC CITY BUILDINGS **DAMAGED**





ST. MARY ABCHURCH

Windows shattered; the steeple and roof damaged by splinters. The roof contained an internal dome with painted decoration. Sir C. Wren, Architect

As yet none of the fifty-six surviving City churches, thirty-three of which were designed by Sir Christopher Wren, has sustained a direct hit, and the damage to them is not comparable to that sustained by churches farther east, some of which have been completely destroyed. Besides those illustrated, the following have

suffered injury, more or less superficial:
St. Swithin's, St. Dunstan-in-the-East, St.
Mary Woolnoth, St. Augustine's, Watling
Street, and St. Mary le Bow. Merchant
Taylors' Hall is among the livery companies'
premises that have suffered, in this case
severely. A small section of Somerset House,
designed by Sir William Chambers, is destroyed.



FISHMONGERS' HALL Severely damaged. The hall, designed by Henry Roberts in 1834, and restored some ten years ago by Mr. Goodhart Rendel, is the third on this site





ST. CLEMENT EASTCHEAP
ST. STEPHEN WALBROOK
Two Wren Churches of which most of the glass has been shattered. St. Stephen Walbrook is regarded as the most beautiful of Wren's City Churches





(Left) ST. MAGNUS THE MARTYR, LONDON BRIDGE. Glass shattered, the roof of the north aisle damaged. (Right) ST. MARY AT HILL. Broken windows and disturbed plaster. A church hitherto darkened by Victorian glass

MOUNTAINS AND MOLEHILLS

A WELSH SHEEP FARMER'S ADVENTURES, REVIEWED BY WILLIAM GAVIN

wealthy philanthropist, I would buy thousands of copies of I Bought a Mountain, by T. Firbank (Harrap, 8s. 6d.), to distribute to young men who will soon, pray God, be starting life afresh and wondering what to do with them-selves. I would do this not merely because the book describes the strug gles of a beginner in farming in such a way as to make the reader wish to go and struggle too: this has often been done before, and many new entrants have lived to regret their enthusiasm. The importance of the book, in my view, lies deeper than this: it describes the struggles the sort of man that British farming has to

attract to itself in large numbers to achieve its reconstruction, and it describes the sort of way in which the newcomer must approach his new life. Farming has often been called a mode of life rather than a trade or occupation, and it is this larger conception that Mr. Firbank

has obviously realised. Having purchased a Welsh mountain sheep Having purchased a Weish mountain sneep farm, known as Dyffryn, he determines to master every detail of its operation by working with his men. Here is no amateur or "cleanboots" farmer, no business man turned countryman, but one who resolves to become a real part of the farm and of the land that he occupies, and a real part of the human life that is bessed on it. The partien must see to it that the based on it. The nation must see to it that the countryside has a fair living to offer such men, and a fair opportunity too to the best of the workers—masters of their craft, whether shepherds, horsemen, stock-feeders or cowmen—to take a larger share in the industry in which they have toiled and which they know so well. Agricultural colleges and institutes have played Agricultural colleges and institutes have played their part in propagating knowledge of basic principles, but the men they turn out, unless they are farmers' sons, are apt to be sadly lacking in the practical and commercial judgment necessary to cope with the day-to-day problems of the farm. Short courses on the college farm, or as a "farm pupil," can never take the place of a year's real work as a wage-earner on a farm which is run as the occupier's means of livelihood. Colleges might consider means of livelihood. Colleges might consider making this a qualification for their highest award, for war has emphasised afresh the extreme difficulty of finding men capable of taking entire charge of even a small farm.

Such reflections may seem a wide digression

from Mr. Firbank's book, but they are the direct result on my own mind of reading it. Why, oh why, ask his experiences—and the experiences of countless others—did the nation, after the lessons of the last war which should have been ineradicable, once again leave agri-culture to those barren years of neglect and despair, years which held the opportunity for its re-establishment on a permanent basis, for the restoration of the soil and for the true revival of rural life, the nation's greatest asset in peace or in war? Much was attempted, and in fact much was done, but the dead hand of false economy, still not absent from our counsels where home farming is concerned, lay heavy on just that little extra margin that represented

Having purchased his mountain, this did not prevent Mr. Firbank paying equal attention to the molehills of daily endeavour which alone could make his investment profitable. He gathered sheep, learnt to treat their ills, took part in the strenuous tasks of washing, shearing and dipping, and tramped the mountain to dig them from the snow. The day came when he them from the snow.



TWIN LAKES WITH SNOWDON IN THE DISTANCE

could himself take part in culling the ewes and in the skilled selection of ram lambs—no light matter, for "every Welshman is, self-appointed, a judge of sheep from whose final decision there is no appeal." He came to regard his flock as his partner, the builder of his fortune, the measure of his striving. But side issues had their place—cattle, pigs, poultry, and a great day when £15 was adventured on a second-hand tractor. "Our neighbours who had long suspected our madness, were confirmed in their suspicions." The farm staff were at first no more receptive: "John Davies regarded in their suspicions." The farm staff were at first no more receptive: "John Davies regarded the newcomer as St. George must have eyed his dragon." But when the dragon got going, his dragon." But when the dragon got going, the same John Davies was defeated but generous. "Indeed the flamer have got some guts,' he admitted, as he saw the great rear wheels ploughing relentlessly through marsh, scrub, and hillocks of grass with the harrow operating behind. An old horse-mower was adapted to attach to the tractor; John, who loved the old mower, sat gingerly on the precarious seat to watch the blade among the rocks, ditches and tussocks. Day in, day out, he caree:ed willy nilly behind yet, clinging somehow to his leaping iron seat. Only once did he complain 'Indeed I do have a cramp in my belly.' But the auto-scythe pleased him my belly.' But the auto-scythe pleased him best—' I do feel like a gentleman,' he announced as he strode up a forty-five degree slope, 'there ben't no work for a fellow.'" Let me quote another short passage: "Sheep washing takes place beside the road and many car drivers pull up to see the sheep being pitched headlong one by one into the pool. Excited holiday-makers run across with their cameras to ask what is happening. Quick comes the reply, 'We are

teaching them to swim." Such touches as these make us doubt the dour reputation of the Welsh hillmen, and convince us that Mr. Firbank has got close to their soul, as he has got to the soul of the relentless mountain of Dyffryn with which he has chosen to cast in his lot. "Dyffryn is never lot. peaceful. The idyllic warmth of a windless summer day is but a brooding respite in the endless fight against most of the weapons which Nature possesses.
'Escape me never,'says
Dyffryn.' Yetthe mountain has her gifts, if
not of peace, then of
regenerating strength and
poetic inspiration, thus: poetic inspiration, thus: I wonder why I do not come often to the high come often to the high places in the darkness. For the velvet hand of

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For the velvet hand of the spaceless night soothes my jangled little human soul, and I float away senseless on the dark sea of time. When I look again the light has followed the dusk in their ceaseless race around the world. The night draws in her skirts and steps away westward like a dark enchantress as she avoids the warm embrace of day. The mountain behind me is touched with light: the summit becomes a faming torch. In a moment the golden glory of the dawn is on me. The shades shrink down to the valleys, and the mountains lift their heads, rejoicing in the wake of day.

From the beginning men have lifted their eyes to the hills and gained confidence and strength from their massive solitude and from wresting a living from their scant soils on, while he marches in the barrack square. But the years have taught them what he goes, But the years have taught them what he goes, and she stays, to defend, and I cannot end better than by quoting his own closing words: "Men are loath just now to return to the land. The life is hard, the wage small, and the instinct of husbandry is dead in them. But man was born of husbandry. In the bleak times ahead he may turn again to his only sure hope, the soil. He will readjust his values, and may soil. He will readjust his values, and may taste in the end the ultimate joy of tending Nature in her labour. And now dogged democracy rouses her slow strength to combat tyranny. Free men have spirit still to die for the right to live. The quiet men from the peaceful fields will march as well as any, for they have reality to defend. And when the storm fades and the dust drifts leeward we will return to a thousand Dyffryns, proud to carry our dead."

THE FISHERMAN'S WIFE

I will say how it is, to be a fisherman's wife, Watching on the weather, beyond the window pane. For you know he's out in the night and it twists your mind like a knife, You feel on your own face the force of the wind and the rain.

And weeks the fishing is slack and you creep about like a mouse, You dream at night of pennies, and the bill runs up at the store; You're feared to meet your neighbour with a week's good wage in her

And for all the best you can do, the bairns are crying for more.

There were things we saved and planned for and things we did without, From mother down to daughter, the ways we women have known; And a husband goes out on Monday without a fear or a doubt, But a squall comes in the Sound, and a man may sink like a stone. And Saturday never comes round for the woman left alone. And so it comes to the bit, and a life's the end of a life. And there's the way it is, to be a fisherman's wife. NAOMI MITCHISON.

SCHOOL BOYS IN CIRENCESTER PARK

BURNING FALLEN TIMBER
AND "LOP AND TOP" FOR
CHARCOAL

EFERENCE was made recently in "A Countryman's Notes" to the extent of the demand for charcoal, and the question was asked whether, in the winter, public school boys could thelp, as they have been helping in their mmer holidays with forestry work, at collective waste timber—tops and branches—for convision into charcoal.

Actually, a party of sixty-four boys, from

Actually, a party of sixty-four boys, from rithing High School and Battersea Grammar hool, have been helping at charcoal burning Lord Bathurst's park at Cirencester. They per under canvas near "King Alfred's Hall" "pavilion" in the middle of the park, ich they were able to use as mess-room. I eir occupation, at which they worked hard at well, was to cut up and collect fallen in ber, stacking it in various rides from which was transported to the kilns. Much of the wood used was wreckage from last winter's "ce storm," of which vast quantities remain.

The demand for charcoal is very great, both for military and industrial (i.e., artificial sil.) purposes, and in many parts of the country charcoal-burning contractors can be seen at work with their retorts—the modern substitute for the ancient and skilled craft of burning in pits. Any wood may be used, and, as at Cirencester, unskilled labour can be most usefully employed in conjunction with a few

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STACKING CORDWOOD IN A RIDE PRIOR TO CARTING

skilled men doing the actual burning. Nor would boys' work be confined to cutting up and collecting the wood. They can stack the letorts with wood, stop up the joints in the kilns with sand, and very probably learn to take their turn in watching the burning and sacking-up of the charcoal.

A great deal more use could be made of the lop and top in woods, and of waste at saw-mills, though at present timber contractors do not seem to be interested. But the time may well come soon when every timber yard will have its charcoal-burning retorts for the conversion of waste material.



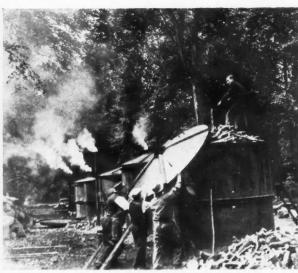
CUTTING UP FALLEN BOUGHS



THE REST ROOM: KING ALFRED'S HALL IN THE PARK



HE KILNS IN ONE OF THE TEN RIDES IN THE PARK



PUTTING THE CAP ON A KILN BEFORE BURNING

WEST BITCHFIELD, NORTHUMBERLAND

THE HOME OF MR. C. E. PUMPHREY

The late mediæval pele tower, to which a wing was added in the seventeenth century (about 1680 or earlier), has been recently restored almost from ruin and set in a very charming garden.

1.—THE NORTH SIDE. WITH THE MODERN ENTRY AND ADDITIONS ON THE LEFT

N those happy days when one could gad about England there was no more lovely county to explore than Northumberland—though the admirable main roads were rather an incentive to hurry on north or south. We turned aside too rarely, leaving this and that recommended objective to "another time." It will be indeed another time when I see the Cheviots again, so the time we turned aside from the Newcastle-Jedburgh road to Belsay and Bitchfield (or Beechefield, as it is variously called) is one to remember with all the greater pleasure. The highway had begun to leave the coastal plain for the rolling uplands that are a southern spur of the Cheviots, and from the rises there were views over the

sparsely treed pastureland towards a low and blue distance eastwards and misty hills to the west. Our first sight of Bitchfield Tower was from the fine old park surrounding Belsay with its noble fourteenth-century fortress. Towers great or small are legion hereabouts—Ogle, Shortflatt, Chipchase, Littleharle, Aydon, Mitford—and the history of the region accounts for them. When it was not the Scots raiding the No-Man's-Land between Tyne and Tweed, it was the local inhabitants raiding one another: as late as 1600 the Fenwicks of Bitchfield had an hereditary feud with the Swinburnes of Capheaton until arbitrators adjured that the "contraversie shall utterly and absolutely end and surcease.."

Bitchfield, which stands upon a lone yridge accessible only by field roads, is one of the smaller pele towers and is interesting as the kind of place inhabited in these parts by the lesser gentry or younger sons of knightly families at the end of the Middle Ages. As such the tower would not detain one long. But in the seventeenth century an exceedingly charming dwelling-house was added to the tower, with a walled formal garden before it, which Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey have lately restored with admirable judgment from a state so near ruin that less visionary prospectors would have been daunted. In this they had the assistance and advice of Mr. Standish Vereker, brother of



Copyright 2.—THE PELE TOWER AND GARDEN FRONT ADDED AFTER 1680 "Country Liz"

The restored top of the tower can be detected by the smaller stones used above the line of the sill of the upper window



3.—THE PAVED WALK TO THE SOUTH DOOR
The grey and blue borders, shot with mauves and pinks, take their key from the stonework of the house



HE GARDEN FRONT WITH THE CHARLES II DOORWAY
The stone window mullions and transoms are modern



5.—THE GATEWAY TO THE OLD FORECOURT
The walk illustrated above prolongs the path from the entry



6.—"TO THE EDGE OF THE PLATEAU ON WHICH THE HOUSE STANDS"
The south end of the paved walk



7.-A CAMOMILE LAWN IN THE HERB GARDEN



8.—THE GARAGE MAKES USE OF THE OLD ROUND HORSE MILL

Lord Gort, whose home at Hamsterley was illustrated here some months ago

illustrated here some months ago.

The earliest reference to Bitchfield occurs in the time of William Rufus, when Guy de Baliol, baron of Bywell, gave lands here as the portion of his daughter Hawis on her marriage to William Bertram, lord of Mitford. The rise of the Middletons at near-by Belsay, one of whom became Chancellor to Henry III, led to the incorporation of Bitchfield in the Belsay manor during the thirteenth century, and in 1270 Richard de Middleton had a grant of free warren in Bechefield.

In the following year something more exciting took place. A well endowed widow, Mistress Denice de Bechefield, riding home from Newcastle one August day with her uncle, John de Papinghan, was abducted by a neighbour, William de Sweethorp, and a body of men who carried her over the moos to Jedburgh and tried to force her to marry has son. The lady, who was the widow of a certain Gilbert de Ba who had farmed four bovates of lard in Bitchfield, had purchased the property after had death and thus obtained a local name and probaby habitation. She successfully resisted this felonions wooing, and brought an action against her captor the Northumberland Assizes in 1279.

The Middletons of Belsay, who apparent you had to be a second to the large transfer of the large tr

The Middletons of Belsay, who apparent y bought out all the free tenants, continued to hold Bitchfield till the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century, when Sir John Middleton sold it to John and Alice Harbottle, whose daughter Margery was married to Sir John Fenwick of Fenwick and Wallington. In 1529 these conveyed lands in Bitchfield to their second son Roger. From these facts it appears likely that the Fenwicks, father or son, built Bitchfield Tower. The Border was at that time in a state of more or less perpetual unrest, punctuated by open warfare, so that a defensible, if primitive-looking, domicile was a necessity.

The tower, of which the battlements and upper portion are part of the recent restoration, is adjoined by the later dwelling-house on its west side. It measures 23ft. from east to west, and 31ft. from north to south. The ground floor, as usual in peletowers, is occupied by a barrel-vaulted chamber, which runs from north to south. The original entry into this was by a door near the north end of the east wall, where it adjoined the foot of a straight staircase in the north wall. This entrance was masked by the later additions when, presumably, the existing door in the south side was pierced. The first-floor room, which occupies the whole area of the tower, has been restored as Mrs. Pumphrey's bedroom. The narrow "loops" have been supplemented on the west side by Tudor mullioned windows brought from Beaudesert, on all three of the upper floors.

There is a tradition, and used to be some indication, of a chapel or other annexe abutting on the north side of the tower. There will certainly have been subsidiary buildings and outhouses, probably grouped round a stoutly walled forecourt. But after the Union of the two kingdoms, and the settlement at about the same time of the family feud between the Fenwicks and the Swinburnes, there can have been no inducement to continue living in such uncomfortable conditions. A stone is preserved in the east room of the seventeenthcentury addition, formerly the kitchen and now the dining-room (Fig. 9), inscribed "R. F. 1622 I. F.," for Robert Fenwick and his wife Jane, believed to have been a Ramsden of Longley Hall, Huddersfield, who succeeded to Bitchfield in that year. It has assumed that the stone refers to another building and was inserted here to preserve it. It seems more likely that the dwelling-house was added to the tower at that date. Although the south front (Fig. 3) is obviously later in character, the north elevation (Fig. 1), with its massive chimney stac's, mullioned windows, and ball-crested gables, accords well with that period. Here it may be remarked that the lower buildings to the left of Fig. 1, and the entry porch, have been added by Mr. and M s. Pumphrey, who have also turned what was a farmy; d surrounded by byres and sheds, into a foreco rt garden of terraced lawns. The old horse-mill las been ingeniously adapted to give cover for c rwashing in connection with the garage (Fig. 8).

If Roger Fenwick made the first additions to the tower, he did not long enjoy them, since he sold the place in 1630 to Edward Grey, second son of Sir Edward Grey of Howick, a Royalist and Papist who in 1646 had to compound for his estates. These consisted of several farms in the neighbourhood in addition o Bitchfield, which was valued at £170. His on Henry, who succeeded him in 1658; sold Bitchfield in 1680 to Sir James Clavering, rst baronet of Axwell, for £1,590.

It was the Claverings, no doubt, who

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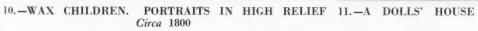
It was the Claverings, no doubt, who emodelled the south front and laid out the valled gardens on that side, turning Bitchfield ito much what we see to-day. But photoraphs of the house as it was in 1921 show that used to have sash windows, the present ransoms and leaded lights being due to the ecent restoration, when the sills were also owered about a foot. The parapet and ornice, which give distinction to the façade, ave been added too. But the charming loorway, with its fat bolection frame, broken urved pediment, and semicircular steps, is riginal, as are the massive walls of the foreout with the piers opening into it (Fig. 5) nd a smaller doorway in each side wall Fig. 2), above which there perched balls or inials.

Mrs. Pumphrey has made the area before



9.—THE DINING-ROOM, ORIGINALLY THE KITCHEN







11.—A DOLLS' HOUSE COPIED FROM THE OLD HOUSE, IPSWICH



12.-THE LIVING-ROOM, LOOKING ON TO THE GARDEN

the south front into an exceptionally attractive garden. A path of old flagstones from the south door through the gateway is prolonged for some sixty yards (Fig. 6) to the edge of the plateau on which the house stands. Within the forecourt the path is bordered with lavender backed by pink roses and stocks. Beyond the gate it widens out between great herbaceous borders (Fig. 3) which, taking their key from the grey stone of the house and paths, have a permanent framework of grey foliage working up to blues, mauves, and pinks in summer on Miss Jekyll's principle. The borders have a stone edging and are raised about six inches, so that front-liners such as pinks, violas, rock roses, saxifrages, and an occasional prostrate cotoneaster can make themselves comfortable. The chief ingredient of the greys is the invaluable Senecio Grayi, with clumps of iris and artemisia. Among them lupins, campanulas, erigeron, marguerites, and other perennials, with various lilies, introduce colour. Behind, the standbys are clumps of Else Poulsen roses, delphiniums, and tree pæonies, with autumn flowerers in reserve. With with autumn flowerers in reserve. With these relatively simple materials, and an appreciation of the background tones to the exclusion of bright clashing colours, a really memorable effect is produced. I remember especially two other features of the garden—

in the plats at the side of the central path: the remarkably fine polyanthas growing and propagating themselves under gooseberry bushes, which give just the half-shade in summer that these spring flowerers like, while their gay colours enliven a part of the garden which is uninteresting at the time. The other was a camomile lawn in the enclosure set aside as a herb garden, so that the pressure of one's footsteps produced its delicious scent. A camomile lawn needs careful weeding, but little other care, since the plant is naturally low growing.

The ground floor of the seven

teenth-century building, of which the original entrance was the gar-den entry (Fig. 4), is taken up by the large living-room (Fig. 12), five bays long and, at the west end, the dining-room or old kitchen (Fig. 9), lit by the two remaining south windows. It is at a lower level, being entered down a flight of five or six steps, and correspondingly high. Over the service door is seen



A DOMED BIRDCAGE: MAHOGANY WITH IVORY AND EBONY INLAY

the inscribed door-head already referred to, which, with the great fireplace arch and the change in floor level, supports the impression that the south front was a refacing of earlier buildings. As in both living-room and kitchen, the decor-ation throughout the house is refreshingly simple. There are refreshingly simple. There are some unusual and attractive odds and ends: a noble architectural birdcage, of which I know one other example (Fig. 13); enchanting wax portraits (in the round) of two little ancestors (Fig. 10), their semi-trans-parent muslin frocks reproduced to perfection; and a doll's which is a model of the Old House at Ipswich (Fig. 11). The Claverings, who seem to

have mortgaged Bitchfield in 1743, finally sold it in 1802 to Sir Charles Monk of Belsay, descendant of the mediæval Middletons. Subsequently the family resumed their old name, and it was Sir Arthur Middleton who leased the house to Mr. and Mrs. Pumphrey in 1932.

HOUSE BAROOU

Country House Baroque, by Anthony Ayscough, M. Jourdain, and Sacheverell Sitwell. (Heywood Hill, 12s. 6d.)

Dublin Plasterwork, by C. P. Curran. (Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Vol. Lxx, Part I, 5s. 6d.)

N Anthony Ayscough, to whose work and memory Mr. Sacheverell Sitwell dedicates a foreword, England lost a brilliant photographer when still a young man; in Miss Jourdain, whose "English Plasterwork of the Renaissance" has prepared us for this later study, the subject of country house baroque finds its fitting historian. Their work is not only historically baroque finds its fitting historian. Their work is not only historically and artistically of the highest value, but should correct many misleading impressions: where "the chase and the arts" (italics ours) were "the dominant interests of country families," Squire Westerns were the exception, not the rule; and how deep that interest in the arts was, every page of this book proves. The variety both of subjects and treatment is extraordinary; to set the massive, sculptural dignity of the Moor Park reliefs, reminiscent of second-century Roman art and most convincingly attributed to Artari (circa 1720), side by side with the exquisite free treatment of a vine by Patey of Bristol (Plate 42), is to see that England had her own contribution to make; and to compare Patey's cherubs (Plate 43) on a ceiling with those on his signed monuments is to see how an artist can be true to himself in more than one medium. Plate 26, a panel at Gateley Hall, Norfolk, again is purely English,

Plate 26, a panel at Gateley Hall, Norfolk, again is purely English, a pastoral scene with church and village, windmill, cows, stile, sheep and shepherd, wholly different in character from the rest, yet most attractive: it would make an ideal nursery wallpaper.

The plates of Irish plasterwork should be taken in conjunction with Mr. C. P. Curran's most valuable and fully documented account of the whole subject. From him we learn that the magnificent Berninesque of the Rotunda at Dublin (Ayscough's Plate 36) is by Cramillion; but the genius of Robert West in dealing with birds is better studied in Ayscough's Plate 35 than in Mr. Curran's pages, and enables us to translate the illustrations dealing with birds is better studied in Ayscough's Plate 35 than in Mr. Curran's pages, and enables us to translate the illustrations given by Mr. Curran into their true terms as works of art. Not the least valuable part of Mr. Curran's work is the relating of the Irish stuccodores to the Continental, and the tracing of originals for their plaster copies; the discovery (page 27) that stuccodores copied Domenichino, and (page 16) that a ceiling at Riverstown, like another once at No. 3, Litchfield Street, London, described in detail by J. T. Smith, are in fact transcripts of a ceiling painted by Poussin for Richelieu and now in the Louvre, is of real importance. Domenichino was overwhelmingly popular at a time when Poussin's work was the grammar of English art in the eighteenth century, as writers from John Buncle to Hazlitt show. Equally suggestive is the remark that certain Irish stuccodores



THE ROYAL FORT, BRISTOL. VINE TRAIL IN THE STAIRCASE HALL, BY PATEY, Circa 1760



MOOR HERTFORDSHIRE, DETAIL FROM PARK. THE HALL CEILING Circa 1720

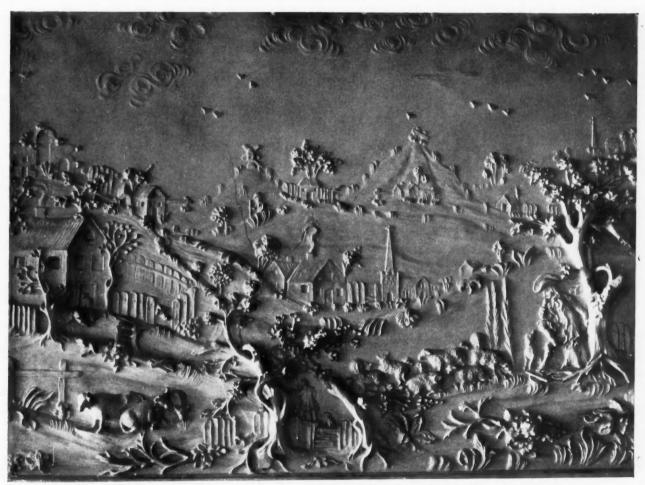




DUBLIN BAROQUE. (Left) DETAIL FROM THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL, Circa 1757. (Right) AT 20, LOWER DOMINICK STREET. STUCCOWORK ON THE STAIRCASE WALL BY ROBERT WEST, Circa 1755

"learned their craft among the statuaries"; his account of the subsequent invasion of the plasterer's field by those statuaries (pages 21, 29) follows logically enough; a glance at Ayscough's Plates 1, 2 or 36 will show how close the relationship could be, and there is, of course, the classical case of Charles Stanley, distinguished alike as sculptor and as plasterer. But Stanley was never the author of the Barnsley Park chimneypiece (Plate 12), tentatively ascribed to him by Miss Jourdain; that is by a sculptor-plasterer trained in the London tradition of canopy work and curtain, laureate medallion, cartouche and volute, such as one finds on a hundred monuments from London masons between 1690 and 1730, and the Hall Place chimneypiece is by the same hand, the design rendered more effective by the dark background of some of the principal features; from neither of his masters, Sturmberg or Scheemaker, did Stanley derive details such as these. We are left with an intense desire to know more of the men who did such work, whether in England or Ireland; and the use of plaster for monuments, in imitation of stone or marble, by English sculptors, or even as a material by itself, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, is still a field wholly unex-

plored; often only the chance loss of a patch of paint or gilding will disclose the fact, but it seems certain that, as, later in Ireland (Curran, page 29), a craftsman would work in either material, the practice of painting the effigies conveniently concealing the use of the cheaper substance underneath. The further question, What was the relationship of these craftsmen to the papier-mâché makers of the early eighteenth century? is still uninvestigated. The father of Joseph Wilton, R.A., had a papier-mâché factory near Charing Cross employing several hundred hands; where is work from his studio to be seen? How can it be distinguished from plaster? And did Wilton (b. 1717), after his apprenticeship to Cheere, work for the factory before he went to Delvaux at Nivelles in 1744? If Miss Jourdain will tell us of these things, if an English scholar will do for English plasterwork what she has done for Renaissance, and Mr. Curran for Ireland, she will lay us under a yet deeper obligation. Mr. Ayscough's photographs give us a foretaste of the riches hidden in our country houses. Cannot a survey of London plasterwork at least be made while there is yet time, before London is denuded of all that makes it gracious in the eyes of those who care for English art? K. A. E.



A LANDSCAPE IN STUCCO. PANEL AT GATELEY HALL, NORFOLK. Mid-eighteenth Century (Photographs from "Country House Baroque," by Anthony Ayscough.)

FISHING IN THE LAKE COUNTRY

SOME ELEMENTS OF SURPRISE. BY CAPTAI

BY CAPTAIN J. B. DROUGHT

N retrospect, what type of fishing leaves one with the happiest impressions? A simple question seemingly, yet one which may be answered in a dozen ways. For all men are not built alike. And some will say that the circumstances of their angling count for nothing, so long as they kill the clean-run salmon of their dreams. But others, more sensitive to their environment, will probably deny that sport is measured solely in terms of weighty fish. They will say that in the peerless beauty of a mountain stream, where only the call of wild birds breaks the silence, and in the countless minor thrills of little trout, there lies a deeper satisfaction. There is a good deal to be said for both philosophies. "You pays your money and you takes your choice."

But what are red-letter days, after all? There is on small streams a freedom of movement that is lacking on famous rivers such as the Derwent and the Lune, although it is difficult to draw comparisons between salmon and trout fishing. Each has its own distinctive charm. But one cannot ring the changes on expensive salmon rivers; no matter how discouraging the outlook, within the confines of a not extensive beat one must stay put. A blank day thus is very blank indeed. Whereas on unrestricted trout streams, if the fish are unresponsive in one reach, well, it is no far cry to the next, and the greater variety of the circumstances helps to whet the sporting appetite.

appetite.

It is, in fact, their infinite variety that constitutes the charm of so many rivers of



A GLIMPSE OF THE LAKES

the Lake District. Between the two extremes—their salmon, and the tiny trout of the mountain tarns—are several grades of fish. There are whoppers in the Kent and Bela to tempt not only novices but even dry-fly artists of experience, and trout of a pound upwards are by no means rare in several of the tributaries of the Lune.

From Keswick you can fish the Greta,

from Windermere the Rothay, and here a d there are numerous lesser streams which in their day yield the angler plenty of excitement even though in point of weight their trout are not remarkable. con

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Within the limits of a short article it would be impossible to cover so large an area as the Lake District, but if you love the little rivers, as much for the wild beauty of their surroundings as for the game little trout they hold, it would be difficult to find a more delightful spot in which to make an angling holiday than Kendal. The Kent and Sprint, the upper reaches of the Lune, as well as a number of hill tarns, are all well stocked with brown trout, smallish mostly but very lively, and the characteristics of these streams are much the same. From small beginnings, mere trickles in the fountains, they creep and crawl over pebbly reaches and broaden into peaty, rock-bound pools. When your luck is in, you will connect with a half-pounder which will fight you with a courage worthy of a fish of thrice the weight. And sometimes you will get a good deal more than you bargain for in your most optimistic moments.

I can readily believe what local ghillies say that on a falling spate a Westmorland salmon will not turn up his nose at any bait, and in his mad excitement he will sometimes come across a pool to chase fly or shrimp, or whatever you see fit to offer him.

whatever you see fit to offer him.

So long as the flood is full he will take in the most unexpected places, and when the water changes from dark brown to amber a single rather small fly put over the submerged rocks will usually provide an almost irresistible temptation.

But once the river assumes normal proportions, reaction sets in and the salmon lie in the pools almost motionless and completely indifferent. So here, again, the angler who can hit off the right moment for attack is the man who lands the prize; while the half-a-day late-comer usually has only the tantalising experience of just stirring the sulky fish.

Perhaps because, in these small streams, when we have the prize it was the second streams.

Perhaps because, in these small streams, you are able, as it were, to observe your fish in a way which is impossible in a broad tidal river, the likes and dislikes of salmon become more than ever an interesting problem.

Presumably the collective knowledge of many generations of anglers has gone to make the problem with the wide variety of attractive layers which

Presumably the collective knowledge of many generations of anglers has gone to make up that wide variety of attractive lures which should appeal to fish of the most epicur an tastes. Yet as often as not when you offer a selection of the most diverting and expensive flies one after the other, the salmon do of even pay you the compliment of noticing yur attention, but will come with avidity at a local production, often of fearsome aspect and apparently indifferent manufacture.

Some time ago I was fishing the Lune from

Some time ago I was fishing the Lune from Kendal, offering my best and brightest inducements in succession without so much as see aga fish. When my state of mind approximated to that of the fabled angler who cast his system.



"IT IS THEIR INFINITE VARIETY THAT CONSTITUTES THE CHARM OF SO MANY RIVERS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT"



BESIDE THE LUNE NEAR KENDAL

book on the waters and invited the inhabitants thereof "to take their choice," I took a rest beside a pool which seemed to beckon the longer I locked at it. It was a run from head to foot with curling eddies, and the surface had just as n uch roughness as only the angler's eye can properly appreciate. It seemed to promise a decent trout at least, as, getting well above the heat of the run and casting as long a line as possible, I felt something and struck sharply. To my utter surprise, a silvery little grilse spring two feet out of the water. Both rod and line were far too light, but, luckily, where

I stood was well above the river, and after the first mad rush the fish bored down and sulked. All that could be done was to keep on all the strain I dared, pray hard, and wait for the first signs of exhaustion. There is no need to nrst signs of exhaustion. There is no need to labour the ups and downs of that encounter. Suffice it to say that it was a bonny tussle which ended in my tailing a nice fish of six pounds on a pebbly shallow which was conveniently handy. The incident merely illustrates the luck which may attend any enterprising fishermen in the bills. ing fisherman in the hills.

So go to it and collect for yourself such

happy memories as this. But before setting out on a fishing holiday, remember to find out the precise limits of reserved beats. Conditions of fishing being in some instarces regulated by local angling associations, are subject to pretty frequent changes, and it does not follow that the free water of a year ago is free to-day. Broadly speaking, residence at various hotels in the district qualifies for a right to fish in one place or another, but angling associations as well as individual riparian proprietors have certain vested rights about which the stranger should make enquiry beforehand.

FARMING NOTES

ACORNS INSTEAD OF BARLEY MEAL—THE WOOL GATHERERS—PICKING UP POTATOES—BONFIRES— LIFTING YOUNG GRASS

OW that pig-keepers are really reduced to one-third of their normal purchases of feeding-stuffs, any kind of suitable substitute for barley meal is very welcome to eke out the ration. col-children are to help by gathering acorns, h masts and horse-chestnuts. There is a crop of acorns and chestnuts in some acts and, used with discretion, they make good food for pigs. Acorns contain a iderable amount of starchy material, so do 2-chestnuts, together with a small amount igar. Not much is known about the comion of beech mast, but the kernels are rich rotein and are rather similar to linseed. in rotein and are rather similar to linseed. Accors are poison to cattle; pigs running out take to them well enough, but those kept indeors should not be allowed to gorge themselves on acorns. The usual ration is up to 1lb. a head per day, and suckling sows can have up to 3lb. Acorns are also all right for fattening sheep. They can be given up to ½lb. of acorn meal in the concentrate part of the ration. Horse-chestnuts can be fed raw, but it is safer odry them in an oven and grind them to a to dry them in an oven and grind them to a meal. A little molasses mixed with the meal nasks the bitter flavour and counteracts the binding effect.

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Board of Education has also asked The Board of Education has also asked school-children to collect wool from fences, hedges and trees, as was done in the last war. The wool is to be despatched, carriage paid, in bags of 50lb. in weight, to a gentleman who rejoices in the title of the Gathered Wool Officer, Cumberland Works, Wool Control, Bradford, where it will be appraised at market value and a cheque sent to the school. In one county where this scheme was first suggested over 600lb. of raw wool was gathered by school-children in quite a short time, and they have earned as much as £5. This advice from the Board of Education comes rather late in the season. It is early in the summer, before season. It is early in the summer, before shearing, that there is most wool to be picked up, but Government departments have a way of ignoring the seasons.

There will also be plenty of work for school children during the next month if they will help with lifting potatoes. This is not heavy work, and in the old days it was the normal work, and in the old days it was the normal custom for the women and children to come out into the fields in the autumn and pick up the potatoes. Where there has been a big increase in the potato acreage this is a job which the public schools can also help with. They are back at their desks again now, and no doubt the boys would willingly spare two or three are moons a week to lift potatoes. A still the first acreage of potatoes is wanted for 1941. It is county war agricultural committee has a saked by the Minister to obtain a minimum age of potatoes. On many farms this crop no doubt be taken on ground freshly broken in grass. There is a risk of wireworm attack, grass. There is a risk of wireworm attack, while heavy crops can often be grown on ourf, the quality is not always first class. presumably the Ministry of Food will not le at taking over as part of the surplus for h they will be responsible potatoes that not too badly holed by wireworm. Such toes will do perfectly well for drying and nanufacture of potato flour.

Drying winds have helped greatly to get ubbles cleared of couch and other rubbish. ground was hard for working after harvest,

but once the surface was broken with a cultivabut once the surface was broken with a cultiva-tor the weeds were readily got together and burned. In these black-out nights the farmer has had to watch that his couch fires do not glow on after dark. At least one farmer has received a severe reprimand from the local commander of the Home Guard for leaving a big heap of weeds smouldering and occasionally flaring up through the night. No doubt the commander was working to instructions, but what conceivable information could be conveyed to enemy aircraft by a smouldering fire in the middle of a large field? It might have It might have been mistaken for a landing flare on an aero-drome and some bombs scattered which would have caused no distress to anyone but the farmer himself, who would have had his field pock-marked with craters. These craters, large and small, are a serious nuisance in Kent and some of the other areas which have borne the brunt of bombing attacks. No one seems to be responsible for filling up the craters, and on some farms this is a very big business which the farmer himself cannot tackle. A well disposed Commanding Officer has in more than one instance sent soldiers along to fill in the earth, and this co-operation is much appreci-ated. Elsewhere, the co-operation between the military and food producers, who are all working in the national interest, has not been

as close as it should be.

Defence works have to be carried out on agricultural land, but if there is previous consultation, as there should be, between the military and the local officer of the war agricultural committee and the farmer whose land is affected, means can often be found to minimise the interference with food production. If obstructions have to be placed across a field, posts are much less objectionable than trenches. Those farmers who took the advice given them earlier in the summer to space their hay ricks out across large fields can now feel pleased that they did so. They should not suffer serious interference through the so-called "immobilisation" of fields. Those who have ploughed up large grass fields which might appeal as landing grounds also have a reasonable chance of escaping interference. able chance of escaping interference.

Much has been heard this season about the special virtues of young grass for making highest quality silage which will almost replace oil cake in the cow's ration. Now that the grass is beginning to grow again there may be a chance of making some of this high-quality silage. One of the practical difficulties is picking up this short material. Perhaps the best machine for this job is the Wilder "Cutlift," which, as its name implies, cuts the grass and lifts it on to a kind of elevator to drop into and first it on to a kind of elevator to drop into a trailer running behind. First introduced in 1933, the original models have been improved, and to-day there is a choice of three. Twin fingers on the cutter bar make for efficient close cutting, but these can be easily changed for ordinary fingers for long or matted crops. Grass of almost any length from three inches are the cutter inches combassing the contract of the contra to eighteen inches can be cut and delivered into the trailer in tow, the only labour required being the tracter of tow, the only labour required being the tractor driver and the boy in the trailer to distribute the cut grass as it falls off the elevator. The makers are Messrs. John Wilder, Limited, of Reading. Those farmers who are interested can obtain a descriptive booklet from Reading.

CINCINNATUS.

LEAVES FROM A COUNTRY NOTEBOOK

HE old custom of "Holding Courts of the Lord of the Manor" is rapidly the Lord of the Manor is rapidly passing, and I suppose in a few years' time will cease altogether and be forgotten. Up to within a year or these courts "Leet" and "Baron" two ago these courts two ago these courts "Leet" and "Baron" were regularly held in the village of Wickham, Hants, and in very many other places where a jury was empanelled, the affairs of the manor dealt with and the officers of the court selected. Among others, Constable, Howard or Hayward, Tithing-man, Town Crier.

The constable was provided with two pairs of handcuffs and a truncheon; the town crier with a bell, but had to provide his own voice, and thereby hangs a tale. The village butcher was one West, who had a very squeaky voice, so he was of course appointed town crier.

This was about the time when frozen man was becoming known in the villages, and a man came through wishing to sell that same

a man came through wishing to sell that same frozen meat. He went to the constable and said he wanted the stuff "cried" in the village; the constable referred him to the steward, who gave the town crier orders to

cry this same frozen meat.

The town crier (sturdy fellow that he was), being a butcher and selling only English meat, refused. But this, of course, was rank insubordination! So a jury was summoned, of which the writer was foreman.

The constable arrested the town crier and

The constable arrested the town crier and brought him before the jury in irons. The jury (without a judge) found him guilty and fined him two bottles of port wine, which were drunk on the spot (by the jury), and the town crier was judged to have purged himself of his contempt.

Many stories could be told of these old courts, careful records of which were kept. They should now, I think, all be put with the parish archives.

parish archives.

As a boy I used to go to a very beautiful old church on Sunday morning, one of the old-fashioned kind, with the horse-box pews and three-decker pulpit, in the lower deck of which sat or stood the parish clerk.

Now among his other duties was the duty

of giving out the amount of the poor rates from time to time, which he did thus:
"O-Yes, this is to give notice that a poor rate has been made and signed by the Justices

of the Peace of [so much] in the f. Let us sing to the praises and glory of God the [I forget the number] Psalm, 'Oh it is a joyful sound to hear

sound to hear '... 'I did not see the humour of it in those days, but I do now. The beautiful old oak horse-boxes have, alas! now been taken away and replaced by horrible pitch-pine pews; nevertheless, the oak horse-boxes may not be quite lost, as the control of the panelling is

writer knows where most of the panelling is.

I had occasion to pass under the Tower Bridge, London. In passing under, what struck me was the noise the horses' hoofs made.

On looking back, I counted more horse-drawn vehicles than motor vehicles going over the bridge, the number being about 60 per cent. horse-drawn and 40 per cent. motor.

On the return journey the same state of affairs obtained, except that the proportion

was about 55 per cent. horse-drawn and 45 per

cent. motor.

The time of the day was about mid-day—and this in the year of grace 1936. A. A.

HOW DEMOCRACY RE-BUILT LONDON

A REVIEW BY CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

THE RE-BUILDING OF LONDON AFTER THE GREAT FIRE, by T. F. Reddaway. (Cape, 18s.)

OST of us think we know two things about the re-building of London.
One is what the Monument tells
us: "Three short years complete
that which was considered the work of an age." The other, repeated continually, is that Sir Christopher Wren devised a masterly is that Sir Christopher Wren devised a masterly plan for London which was defeated by the "faction and averseness" of the citizens. Mr. Reddaway shows that they are both entirely untrue. The re-building was far from complete after ten years; and the various new plans, Wren's included, were abandoned because of the utter lack in seventeenth-century English Government of any powers for putting them into effect. The past twenty years have shown how difficult it is even now, with all our town planning legislation, to get anything spectacular done in face of the English tradition of equity and fair play. One of the most interesting aspects of this book is the way it shows how, not Wren, nor even the King, but

After two months, not ten per cent. of the data had been produced: the whole area was still yards deep in ruins and refuse, and the few citizens who had been prepared to incur the expense of clearing their sites in order to survey them, met with great difficulty in finding the necessary labour. By the end of the year the project of a Survey was abandoned as hopeless—and with it any idea of redistribution of properties in a replanned city.

But it was essential that a start should be made, at least with the marking out of the new streets, the widths and alignments of which had been agreed, largely on the King's initiative, between the authorities and the committee of architects. The latter was made responsible for carrying this out and, as Mr. Reddaway remarks, it is significant that this very body, who must have been naturally prejudiced in favour of a new plan (at least two of its members had drawn up designs), appears to have tacitly decided to abandon all idea of one. Yet he shows what an immense amount

was nevertheless achieved, in spite of deficient

finance and the characteristically English system of multifarious committees. By the end of April, 1667, the new frontages along the widened streets had been settled, four standardised types of houses had been imposed, and the

mediæval labour restrictions surmounted, per-mitting the City tradesmen to be diluted by a

whole re-building, which, understandable and commendable so soon after the Constitutional struggle between Crown and Commons, is not the way in which great town-planning operations can be conducted. The astonishing thing is that so much was done. The impression given by Mr. Reddaway is that this was due, not to any individual authority or genius, but he typical laborious, fair-minded and not viry imaginative English committee-man—such as Sir William Hooker, who was a leading mem er of eighteen post-Fire reconstruction and re ief committees. Mr. Reddaway has drawn u on committees. Mr. Reddaway has drawn u on the musty minutes of their interminable m etings, among other unpublished material, for this valuable study, which will be the stand rd authority on the subject dealt with nore broadly by W. G. Bell in "The Great line of London," published twenty years ago.

HAPPY WAR HISTORY

HAPPY WAR HISTORY

Anyone who wants to read a story of all colutely thrilling excitement, to hold his breath to till he has turned the next page, and be deaf to dinerabells and contemptuous of sirens, should get HE POLISH GOLD (Methuen, 3s.), by Robert Wester by and R. M. Low. When the Germans were at he gates of Warsaw there were still seventy-five tens of gold, twenty million pounds, the entire reserve of the country and the hope of her future reestablishment, in the Bank of Poland. The Minister of Finance, Colonel Adam Koc, deciced, late as it was in the day and desperate as was the situation, to try to transfer it to Paris. He gives the order to remove it to Colonel Ignaz Matwsjewski, and this is the story of how he, with a han-ful of tired young soldiers, few of them twenty years old, and a fleet of derelict 'buses, most of them certainly looking a good deal older, embarked on their dreadful enterprise. Once they had to turn back, once they had somehow to repair a broken aeroplane which had been discarded and let the solitary pilot among them fly back for orders. The Germans discovered their plan; 'planes bombed their route, and the clutching hand closed tighter and tighter. They transferred to a train, and on the frontier bridge time bombs were discovered. It was impossible to make sure that the bridge was cleared, but their train was early. Matwszjewski took the risk, and thirty minutes after the gold had crossed into Rumania the bridge crashed in ruins. That is but one incident in a story full of such moments. The gold arrived in Paris at last, and it is to be hoped that it has travelled farther since. Those inclined to despondency should read this small book and realise how dauntless courage and unbreakable determination can work miracles for men of good will. less courage and unbreakable determination can work miracles for men of good will.



less courage and unbreakable determination can work miracles for men of good will.

BUSINESS MAN'S ESCAPE

Mr. Francis Brett Young's new novel, Mr. Lucton's Freedom (Heinemann, 9s. 6d.), follows a familiar fictional path, but the path is embroidered with delicate, distinctive flowers of the author's mind. Mr. Lucton is a wealthy North Bromwich man who, at fifty, suddenly feels the emptiness of his wealth, and of his existence dedicated to the support of a socially aspiring wife and of grown-up, self-centred children. Opportunity coincides with temptation, and he makes off, more than half resolved never to return. Of course, he does return eventually, but during his two months of freedom he encounters a variety of people and adventures, and finds outlets for the long-suppressed romanticism of his nature. It is for these things that most people will read and enjoy the book; but we feel it is not for these things that Mr. Brett Young wrote it. His own passion for a particular stretch of countryside is well known, and this is a theme giving him ample opportunities for loving description of it. That countryside is "neither England nor Wales," but "a no-man's-land of the spirit; that debatable zone of the Silurian March . . . where ghostly and delicate moods have found their only expression in the words of great Silurists, such as Vaughan and Traherne and, later, but unmistakally, Arthur Machen." Mary Webb should surely have been added to the list, even if only "Precius Bane" entitles her to her place. This is on of Mr. Brett Young's less ambitious books, but it is pleasant reading.

BOOKS EXPECTED

A war book likely to be read with consider ale

BOOKS EXPECTED

A war book likely to be read with consider interest is Mr. Gordon Waterfield's What Happe to France, coming shortly from Mr. John Mur who is also publishing Mr. J. Langdon-Davies' poc size book The: Home Guard Training Man'the Truth on the Tragedy of France, by M. El Bois, former Editor of the Petit Parisien, is to c as soon as possible from Messrs. Hodder and Stough Another book of the times is Great Britain: Empire in Transition, by Albert Viton, which Me Hurst and Blackett are producing during the autu A new novel by Mr. Charles Morgan is always n and Messrs. Macmillan are publishing one, The Voyain the first week of October.



A HOUSE IN BOTOLPH LANE BUILT SOON AFTER THE FIRE From a drawing by Hanslip Fletcher (From " The Re-building on After The Great Fire")

typical council and committee men did nevertheless cope with a prodigious emergency.

We are peculiarly well conditioned to-day

we are peculiarly well conditioned to-day to appreciate the factors that really governed the situation in the autumn of 1666. The country was at war—the Dutch were expected in the Thames any day. The City, already depopulated by the Plague, was the Government's main source of revenue, so that its restoration as soon as possible was vital. But restoration as soon as possible was vital. But its administration was both hopelessly anti-quated and hopelessly bankrupt; the technique quated and hopelessly bankrupt; the technique of insurance policies and long-term loans that would nowadays be brought into play, and even fireproof safes, simply did not exist; there was not so much as a survey or record of properties in existence. And, on top of an acute shortage of labour, there was the plight of thousands of destitute refugees.

In the first enthusiasm that followed the disaster, grandiose new plans were warmly

disaster, grandiose new plans were warmly approved, at least in Court circles. But in his Proclamation of September 13th, by which the King had skilfully steadied the morale of the stunned population, he had guaranteed, not stuned population, he had guaranteed, not only far-reaching improvements, but that no individual should suffer loss by them. A complete survey of all sites and interests concerned therein was accordingly ordered, on which the equitable redistribution of replanned property might be based. The "last occupier" of each property was to provide these essential particulars.

flood of provincial workmen. It is interesting to note that the standardisation of housing—which expedited re-building as much as it made for a homogeneous city—met with practically no objection. 'The familiar design and plan—the basis of London houses for over a century—has usually been credited to Wren, but it was produced by the committee collectively and is more experienced architect members, May, Pratt, and Hooke. Wren was the least experienced of them, although their intellectual superior, and was principally occupied by St. Paul's and, after was principally occupied by St. Paul's and, after 1670, the churches, which lie outside Mr. Reddaway's scope. He was, however, concerned in two big but abortive projects—the Fleet Canal and Thames Quay. The former failed chiefly because Wren and Hooke were not civil engineers. The second, enthusiastically approved by Parliament and City alike so late as 1670, yet petered out, for the predominant reason that, while a majority approved, it was to no section's immediate advantage to press the execution, and to a small minority a dis-advantage. The episode is characteristic of the democratic and commercial approach to the

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CORRESPONDENCE



WIDE OLD ROAD SOUTH OF ALDFORD, CHESHIRE

CHESHIRE TRACKWAYS

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

S. —The county palatine of Cheshire is not notoriously famous for its old reds or prehistoric trackways. Watling Street, between Chester and M. nchester, is probably the best known, but here a modern highway strides in the line of the old road for most of the way, and where it does not there is little to see. Mention is seldom made anywhere of the Roman road southward from Chester. Yet beyond Aldford towards Malpas there runs a load, grassy now, that is probably on the line of the Roman highway, and if not, it is well worth a visit and some exploration. It is remarkable for



THE GREEN ROAD, DESCENDING FROM KELSBOROUGH CASTLE

its width, straightness, and verdure. Where the old road leaves Aldford a notice says: "To Motorists, No Road." Cars can be taken. The road continues to Barton, but there is a stretch in the middle of this section that has lost its width, and apparent straightness. Southward from Barton the old is merged with the new. My second picture is of a green road that descends from Kelsborough Castle, a prehistoric rampart near Kelsall, towards Willington. Old trees on each side are evidence of its age, and at one section, where it is muddy, surfacing has been taken up and used by some farmer for making the entrance to a pasture less of a quagmire. For most of its length the track is twelve feet in width.—F. E. M.

HOMAGE TO KING WILLIAM

WILLIAM

TO THE EDITOR

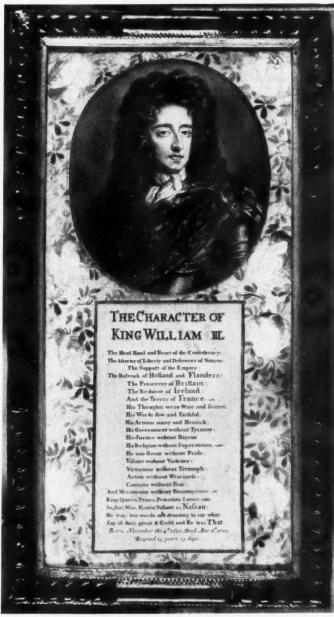
SIR,—It was pleasant to read that Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, after laying a wreath at the Cenotaph on "Prinsjesdag," laid a similar tribute on the tomb of William and Mary in Westminster Abbey. Our King William III was of course one of the most distinguished princes of the House of Orange. Modern historians tend to make him a less heroic figure than did Macaulay, in some cases allowing their Jacobite and Catholic sympathies full rein at his expense. It was, therefore, interesting to find this old "Character of King William III," mounted on a beautifully decorated contemporary back ground and in an early eighteenth-century frame, hanging at Hilles, illustrated recently in Country Life. The mezzotint portrait, like the "character," has been cut out and pasted on. The tributes paid to him, if somewhat fulsome, are not so very wide of the mark. At this time, when both his peoples are united again against a common foe, and his collateral descendant—Queen Wilhelmina—is an exile to our shores, it is good to remember the "great and good" William of Orange.—C. H.

THE GALAPAGOS

TO THE EDITOR.

THE GALAPAGOS
TO THE EDITOR.

18. — Naturalists everywhere will loice if the Galapagos Islands are used to the U.S.A. The numerous sts which with the seven larger ands (whose English names are bably a legacy from seventeenth-fury buccaneers) make up the up have an extremely important in the development of natural forty, because of the part which fauna played in helping Darwin ormulate his world-shaking the-fauna played in helping Darwin ormulate his world-shaking the-fauna played for the swhich ador (which annexed the islands \$32) has provided for this unique of the world's wild life are well untioned but quite inadequate, there have been fears that, within wy years, the damage done might reparable, because of the exteration of certain peculiar species. almost certain that there would improvement if the islands were nistered by the U.S.A., whose dof conservation during the nt century contrasts so markedly the errors of fifty years ago and



A TRIBUTE TO KING WILLIAM III

is perhaps the best in the world. The giant tortoises, which are said to live to be 300-400 years old and thus to be the world's oldest animals, are the most famous of the Galapagos' inhabitants, and it is of course they who have given the islands their name. But it is perhaps the ground finches habitants, and it is of course they who have given the islands their name. But it is perhaps the ground finches that provide museum naturalists with the most interest, since the subspecific differences, on different islands, between the same or closely allied species, provide the kind of tangled puzzles which systematic naturalists live to unravel! For the lower-browed (field naturalist there is one charming insectivorous bird which uses sticks as probes, to chivvy from the crevices of tree-bark those insects which it cannot reach otherwise. For doubting Thomases it may be added that the bird has been filmed in the act. Mr. David Lack, whose name is known to all ornithologists, was on the islands for some weeks a year or two ago, and a recent issue of the Journal of the Society for the Protection of the Fauna of the Empire had a brief reference to his observations.—

J. D. U. W.

LATE NESTING OF **SWALLOWS**

TO THE EDITOR.

To THE EDITOR.

SIR,—At the end of July last, a pair of swallows selected my motor house as a building site. Before noticing the birds, the garage doors were shut nightly, and on two occasions the birds were imprisoned for some fifteen or sixteen hours each night. Afterwards, I ordered a door to be kept open, and immediately the birds began building on the purlin of the roof, and taking little notice of any passing in or out of the garage by men and motors. By the 31st the young birds, four in number, were fully fledged, and daily expected to leave the nest. When the bird was sitting, I showed the nest to a friend, who said that late nesting by swallows was not unusual, but that they seldom incubated their young. Can you say if this theory is generally accepted, as I think most probably it may be only some local imagination of the bird's customary habits?—C. R. WAINWRIGHT. WAINWRIGHT.

[Swallows often nest late, but they usually get their young off successfully.—Ed.]

MICHAELMAS (OR RENT DAY)

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—These are prosaic if thrilling times, and one fears that the "Michaelmas goose" must be counted obsolescent if not already obsolete. Four centuries old is the verse which runs:

And when the tenants come to pay their quarter's rent.

And when the tenants come to pay their quarter's rent,
They bring a fowl at Midsummer, a dish of fish in Lent,
At Christmas a capon, at Michaelmas a goose,
And somewhat else at New-yere's tide for fear the lease flies loose.
Who, now, would insert in a lease the condition made by the Lord of Lastres, in Herefordshire, in 1464? The farm was to be let at "twenty pence a-year, and one goose, fit for the Lord's dinner, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel." At the Coronation the lord of the manor of Worksop presented, in token of his holding, a glove to the Sovereign; last year the King received at Launceston Castle feudal dues and picturesque peppercomrents such as a salmon spear and a brace of greyhounds; and this last summer it has been recalled that comparable charges are attached to Savernake Forest. But surely no Yorkshire farm is now leased for "a thousand clusters of nuts a year, and upholding a gauntlet firm and strong" (as formerly at Wakefield), nor yet is any Norfolk farm held of the for "a thousand clusters of nuts a year, and upholding a gauntlet firm and strong" (as formerly at Wakefield), nor yet is any Norfolk farm held of the Crown for two hogsheads of red wine and "two hundred of pears called permeines, at the Feast of St. Michael yearly, at the King's Exchequer." But sentimentalists may spare a sigh that the Michaelmas geese should be going or should have gone to join the snowballs at midsummer, the red roses at Christmas et hic genus omne.—W.

A NOBLE TOMB TO MASTER AND DOG

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
SIR,—In the beautiful little village churchyard at
Swithland, Leicestershire, is a tomb which must
be unique. It is curiously built into the boundary Swithland, Leicestershire, is a tomb which must be unique. It is curiously built into the boundary wall, so that a dog might lie in unconsecrated ground while its master was in consecrated, and yet they both remain together in death. This remarkable resting place was chosen by Sir Joseph Danvers, M.P. and Deputy Lieutenant for the County, as he refused to be separated from his favourite dog. He knew they both could not be buried together in the church, so decided on this plan. He died in 1753.

As will be seen from the photograph, the tomb is a massive structure, two sides formed of large

As will be seen from the photograph, the folio is a massive structure, two sides formed of large slabs of blue Swithland slate from the famous near-by quarries. One slab is engraved with a curious little ship and also a church, and is the pictorial idea of the

and also a church, and is the pictorial idea of the accompanying lines:

"When young I sailed to India, east and west, But aged in this port must lye at rest."

On the other slab the engraving shows a man busy ploughing, while in the background is a little gate in the fence; the path leads up to a house which is being built, and two builders are at work, illustrating these lines:

"Be cheerful, O man, and labour to live, The merciful God a blessing will give."

Some idea of the kind of clothes worn at this time will be gathered from the workmen and the ploughman, and the strange-looking plough will be a copy of those in use when the tomb was engraved.

A considerable amount of time must have been spent to get such excellent engravings, and to find



THE SAILING SHIP "When young I sailed to India"

a tomb with such remarkable illustrations as these a rare occurrence.-J. DENTON ROBINSON.

[Its two-fold interest—of dog-burial and sculpture—certainly makes Sir Joseph Danvers' tomb remarkable. Eccentric as is the former cirtomb remarkable. Eccentric as is the former circumstance, the carved reliefs are considerable works of art in their way, to which it is not easy to adduce a parallel. The sculptor was evidently accustomed to low-relief work in the local slate, and has managed the medium admirably. Slate was fairly freely used for tombstones (those in Welsh churchyards particularly repay study), and possibly the sculptor was a Swithland craftsman. Many of the Portland quarrymen carved their own tombstones, with a comparable, if less tutored, vigour and imagination.—ED.] -ED.]

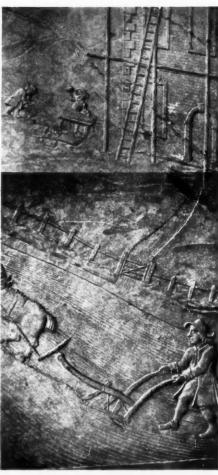
TRUFFLE-HUNTING

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—So great was the love of a certain William Leach for the truffle that when that worthy returned from the Indies he brought with him a number of pigs trained in the hunting of these delicacies and proceeded to "comb" England for truffles, having



THE DANVERS TOMB AT THE BOUND-ARY OF SWITHLAND CHURCHYARD



THE BUILDERS AND THE PLOUGHMAN

previously made up his mind to settle in that par of the country in which the truffle was most plentiful. Reading of this, I made up my mind to find out if the edible fungus still grew in Somerset, as I had been told it did. I made for the nearest woods and delved in the leaves, but without success. In beech and oak woods, I was told, dig at the roots and the truffle may be found an inch or so under

and delved in the leaves, but without success. In beech and oak woods, I was told, dig at the roots and the truffle may be found an inch or so under the soil.

At last I went to an old country "pub" and asked the help of the worthies to be found within, quaffing beer held in gnarled hands.

"Truffles? Never 'eard of 'em. Now, if you mean pig-nuts, why, that'd be different!"

But eventually, after drinking a glass of cider and passing my cigarettes round the room, to synothing of filling about six tankards of beer, I w stold that old Turvey would be able to tell me something about truffles. So, bidding them good-by, I set off again, to come upon a cottage built up not the edge of a wood, and an aged man with a beard in the front room.

Yes, Turvey had heard of truffles—that is one say, his father had told him that he used to hust them with dogs trained to smell them out, but the wasn't sure that there were any in Somerset. (In the other hand, there might well be some—and he might be able to find some if I promised not to tell anyone where they were. So ten minutes have the old man and I were to be seen walking towards a wood. The man's beard partly covered a green feth that did little to hide his unruy hair, and he wore a coat green with age. He walk do with the tread of a woodman, and the stoop was only to be expected in one of his age. His face was lined with mirth-marks at the corner of the eyes and mouth, and he laughed with his eyes. Externally look he was shrewd.

All the afternoon we spent in the woods, and along the fences that surrounded the wood, and along the fences that surrounded the wood, and the sternoon we hereabouts, and at last his statement proved correct. At the base of an oak tree a small mound of earth caught his eye. He probed in the soft sail and unearthed some of these delivacies.

re

Turvey kept nodding to himself, saying that there should be some hereabouts, and at last his statement proved correct. At the base of an oak tree a small mound of earth caught his eye. He probed in the soft soil and unearthed some of these delicacies that our forefathers loved so much and which the old man assured me his father sold to the local squire and for which he could get three pounds a "lot" to-day, though why the gentry liked them he couldn't say! Indeed, they were not very pleasing to look at, pappy to the touch, black or dark brown, covered with warts, about the size of a half-crown, and possessing a most unpleasant smell! But they were truffles, and my quest had come to an end!

Mr. Collins, aged sixty-seven, who lives at Winterslow, Wilts, claims to be Britain's last truffle-hunter. His ancestors came from Ireland three hundred years ago. They imported a Russian poodle and a Spanish poodle, and from them bred truffle-hounds, an important point being that these hounds must have no game strain in them, or they are liable to be distracted from the truffles. The last of this breed, Spot by name, died in 1936. Spot's great-grandfather, Jumbo, was the finest truffle-hound ever, says Collins. He could wind a foot-deep truffle from over one hundred yards away: even hare jumping over his back could not deflect him. He was matched for a £50 wager against a Périgord sow. That was in August, 1914. On the day before Jumbo was to go to France, war inconveniently broke out!—Mary Stuart Payton.



THE CHURCH "But aged in this port must lye at rest

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GOLF BY BERNARD DARWIN

THAT DORMY FEELING

OR the ordinary citizen of ordinarily apprehensive temperament—and that is my case—I suppose there is no doubt in these times as to which is the pleasantest hour of the twenty-four. It is that, nearing the dawn, at which is heard penetrating call of the "All clear," sending for a little while from broken to untroubled other. The wailing note may arouse him. the penetrating call of the "All clear," sending of for a little while from broken to untroubled wher. The wailing note may arouse him in, just when he is thinking of bath and akfast, but for a very few hours at least he is that he is dormy. Nobody, perhaps, is re acutely aware of this sensation than the er, since his is an apprehensive game, and all too much time in which to exercise imagination. The cricketer well set and ding runs is just as much—indeed, more, haps—at the mercy of a single bad shot, but is a game of a hotter blood and he has less e and so less temptation to be morbid. It long time since, even in the most modest tree, I experienced his delightful sensations, my recollection is that I thought only at fun it was. The golfer's blood, on the er hand, is icy cold, full of a calculated trehension. True, there does come to him, he among game players, that heavenly ment of dormy, when he can snap his gers; but even that is denied him in a rnament, when he must, if need be, go to nineteenth hole, and so he spends much his time trying to avert the evil chance.

There never was, I am convinced, so supertious a fellow, so terribly afraid of provoking

There never was, I am convinced, so super-straious a fellow, so terribly afraid of provoking the Fates by anything approaching a boast, and therefore so anxious not to say how he is faring. Ask him how the match is and he will reply that he is two up "at present," or perhaps he will silently and with an infinite stealthiness hold up two fingers. It may be alleged that

he does this out of good manners, lest he appear to be crowing over his adversary, but that is not the whole truth, for in a medal round, when there is no adversary to be considered, it is still harder to extract information from him; he becomes a very oyster. I have not often come to the last few holes on a St. Andrews medal day with a respectable score on my card, but when I have, I have feared, even more than my own fallibility, my enquiring friends. They have finished their own rounds, forgotten their own misfortunes, and have come out again, well lunched and, as Mr. Wooster would say, "bonhomoris," to find out how others are getting on. What vague and even mendacious getting on. What vague and even mendacious statements does one make in such circumstances! statements does one make in such circumstances! to what touching of wood and other propitiatory formulæ does one descend! The man who has a good score at the end of the long-hole-in has that glorious and agonisin; fact written on him: he has a touch-me-notishness which cannot be mistaken. It was at that very hole not so long since that I saw a friend of mine, whose air was thus eloquent. I did not dream of speaking to him, but privily enquired of his marker. The marker replied: "Moderate," but in a tone to deceive no one, and I was not but in a tone to deceive no one, and I was not surprised when, a minute later, he asked me to go away, since his partner would play better if I did not look at him. I took myself off accordingly, full of sympathy, and am glad to eay that my friend finished steadily and won the second medal the second medal.

the second medal.

The professional is, I think, less liable to these self-conscious terrors than the amateur, though no doubt he has his share of them. He is a better player, and therefore less likely to make some outrageous mistake, and he has more practice in score play; he has, as a rule, somebody in the nature of a bodyguard to

fend off enthusiastic idiots. Moreover, owing to the nature of his profession, he has trained himself to be civil to the askers of questions, however tiresome, and not to snap their heads off save in the last resort. Still, he is eminently human, and in the last round of a championship there is an air of tension, and the experienced observer may often make a good guess at his score. In recalling those last rounds one comes score. In recalling those last rounds one comes back to me because it appeared uniquely free from any stress or strain. That was Perry's when he won his championship at Muirfield. I saw him begin with a dreadful six, and he did not seem to care a bit. He just missed a three at the second and was in his stride. I did not see him again until he was in the last lap for home, and then he was playing as if nothing could stop him. When he put his drive into a bunker at the fourteenth, and with everything a bunker at the fourteenth, and with everything to lose and little to gain, with victory almost in his pocket, with plenty of strokes to spare, he took a spoon and hit the ball clean home on he took a spoon and hit the ball clean home on to the green, he was so obviously and demoniacally inspired that it was only a question of how many strokes he won by. Never did man give the ball a more whole-hearted wallop than did Perry with his second to the last hole, soaring high over the bunkers, bang home, not far from the pin. It is always an exciting moment when the winner comes breaking through the crowd for the last time, and Perry, as he rolled home, reminded me of the great Fitzherbert coming down the straight in a victorious quarter for Cambridge. Most people expected to see him hole his putt, a reasonably long one, for a three; nothing seemed impossible. He addressed it as if he meant to hole it, but laid the ball a couple of feet short. Then in went the next, and with unmoved countenance he rolled off the green.

RACING RESUMED

STEEPLECHASING FIXTURES

ITTLE surprise was occasioned by the abandonment of the first of the new Hurst Park fixtures, as under the then prevalent overhead conditions it would have been nothing more or less than inviting trouble to have held it. So for "safety inviting trouble to have held it. So for "safety first" it was given up, and the reunion of racegoers took place at Ripon. A favourite place with many, it forms an ideal centre for a tour of the northern bloodstock breeding establishments. The Manor House and Spigot Lodge Studs, so long associated with the name of the late Dobson Peacock and now with that of his core. Methods were within easy reach at of the late Dobson Peacock and now with that of his son Mathew, are within easy reach at Middleham and Jervaux Abbey can be taken on the way; a short drive, and there are Mr. McIntyre's Theakston Hall Stud and Mr. John Bell's at Thirsk; Sledmere is nearly adjacent; Lady Chesterfield's Beninbrough Stud is just outside York; the famous Burton Agnes nursery is in the near vicinity, and, in fact, for miles and miles round Ripon the fields and wolds of Yorkshire literally teem with bloodstock. For this very reason the new start Ripon was appropriate. Visitors were there in abundance; for five short hours the main atress of present-day existence was forgotten; during that time enthusiasts from all parts aw and talked bloodstock and the way in which they were catered for can be gauged from the fact that there were ninety-seven and talked bloodstock and the way in which they were catered for can be gauged from the fact that there were ninety-seven inners for the six events on the card. Produings opened with the Boroughbridge lling Plate, in which that stalwart old warrior al Estate put paid to the pretensions of ellow Knight and thirteen others, and credited owner-trainer, Henri Jelliss of Newmarket, opaid Sogs. for him last December, with event. Following this, some useful three of olds, the best of whom was the Sunny ace gelding Brendy, who is trained in Camdegeshire, turned out for the six furlong few Handicap, and then twenty-one went the post for the Harrogate Plate. This is like the Cambridgeshire, over a mile. The were several prospective candidates for Newmarket race, including Boomps-asy, Allegiance, Lion Tamer and The

Straight Four, but none of these gave the locally trained four year old Reynard's Lodge any trouble, and he won after a great contest, with Caldwell riding at his best, by a head from Ridley, with Cronymoor a head farther away third. A son of the City and Suburban winner Great Scot, from a daughter of Friar Marcus, Reynard's Lodge is not entered in the first of the autumn handicaps, but should win again in the north. Save that the winner, Ferniehurst, made the journey from Dunbar in Scotland and gave Harry Wragg a winning ride, there was little of interest in the Autumn Handicap, but several more than likely young-Handicap, but several more than likely young-sters ran in the Wakeman Two Year Old Plate. Best of these were Arbalester and Precocious Princess, who ran first and second with a short head between them. Like Beausite, who is reckoned by many to be the fastest two year old seen out this season, Arbalester is a son of Papyrus' half-brother Bold Archer and comes from Arate a Specimint more who in her racing old seen out this season, Arbatester is a son of Papyrus' half-brother Bold Archer and comes from Arete, a Spearmint mare who, in her racing days, won the Wilbraham Plate at Newmarket and has since been responsible for such moneyspinners as Blackette, Stop Gap, Abbots Halt and Silverette. Bred and owned by Mrs. Clare Rich, who is also interested in the Suffolk Punch, this was Arbalester's first appearance; he does credit to his sire, whom he much resembles and who is now in his sixteenth year and until the end of last season had sired the winners of 230 races carrying £53,692½ in stakes. Precocious Princess is of very different lineage. Her sire is Windsor Lad, a winner of the Derby and St. Leger who nowadays stands at the Burntwood Stud, near Winchester; her dam, Dame Caution, is a Friar Marcus mare who was bred by the late Lord St. Davids and was sold by him to Mr. Martin Benson—the breeder of Precocious Princess—for 1,5cogs. at the December Sales of 1936. A filly with a good rein and a well angled shoulder, she carries Mrs. Benson's colours and holds engagements in the One Thousand Guiness and Oaks next Mrs. Benson's colours and holds engagements in the One Thousand Guineas and Oaks next year; Chub Leach has charge of her at Queensberry Lodge in Newmarket. The Ripley Plate, attracted ten to the gate and was won by the filly Sol d'Or. Trained by Mathew

Peacock and owned by Mr. W. H. Thorpe, who gave 1,500gs. for her as a foal, this filly should, later on, prove an invaluable asset to any breeding establishment, as her sire is the St. Leger winner Solario and her dam, Fair Flame, is a daughter of the Grand Prix de Paris winner Bruleur who was bred in France by M. E. de St. Alary and is an ownsister to the Churchill Stakes and Alexandra Stakes victor Finglas, from Fair Simone, a Farman mare who won the Royal Stakes at Epsom and other events of £3,983 before being exported to France.

'CHASING FIXTURES

'CHASING FIXTURES

Jumping enthusiasts will, after the long delay, welcome the publication of the provisional fixture list for October and November for steeplechase meetings, which has been arranged by the Stewards of the National Hunt Committee. Proceedings open on Saturday, October 19th, with a meeting at Hawthorn Hill, and this is followed, in the next week, by a meeting on the Thursday at Taunton. These are all the October gatherings, but those in November are more plentiful, and after an opening at Southwell on the 2nd there is Cheltenham on Wednesday, the 6th; Hawthorn Hill on Saturday, the 16th; Southwell again on Monday, the 18th; Windsor and Wetherby on Saturday, the 23rd.; Nottingham on Monday, the 25th, and Manchester on Saturday, the 30th. Naturally, there is a possibility of any or all of these being cancelled at the shortest notice, but there is, on the other hand, a distinct chance that additional fixtures will be added.

THE NEW ST. LEGER

THE NEW ST. LEGER

At the moment of writing, and as likely as not when this is already in print, the meeting which is due to take place at Hurst Park this afternoon and which features the "New" St. Leger, lies, metaphorically, in the lap of the gods. If the meeting comes off, and if the last of the classics is run for, the least doubtful thing seems to be that Mr. Fred Darling's Pont l'Evêque will win it fairly easily with Valeraine his nearest attendant. ROYSTON.

THE ESTATE MARKET

FARMS AS INVESTMENTS



THE SHARPHAM ESTATE, DEVON

ARMS of all sizes and types are still a strong feature of a market that, all things considered, compares very favourably with other media of investment. For one point in favour of the purchase of agricultural land is that thereby capital is put into something that is a definite and indeed all-important contributory factor to the national well-being.

It may be asked why, if farms are so valuable and so indispensable, anyone ever sells them. The answer is, in part, the same as that to a similar question regarding such investments as freehold ground rents. In the last few days that answer has been given in so many words by the executors of the late Lord Daresbury. "The sale was necessitated by the obligation to pay death duties." Possibly a persistent questioner might go on to ask: "Why should anyone with free capital put it into anything except the State loans, which are now pressed upon the public attention?" A sufficient answer to that seems to be to say that, if a sale has to be effected in order to defray a debt to the Exchequer—for example, death duties—the buyer is serving national ends in finding the money for the vendors, and, advancing the argument a step further, his action in buying farms, for example, is in the fullest accord with public policy, for he provides the farmer with the use of capital.

THE TENANT'S WORKING CAPITAL

THE TENANT'S WORKING CAPITAL

The tenant farmer has not locked up his fundsy and to that extent he is somewhat in the position of a trader who takes a shop. Except the great companies—including, of course, those styled "multiple"—the average business man, especially the young and enterprising beginner, has no cash available for buying premises. He needs all he has to buy stock and meet current expenses, and he is glad of the opportunity of taking premises at a rent. Indeed, if he could not do so, he would be unable to trade.

As a result of the great wave of selling, during and just after the 1914–18 war, tenant-farmers tumbled over one another in their struggle to become owner-occupiers, and as most of them did it with borrowed money (exchanging a payment of rent for the payment of interest, and a liability from year to year for a permanent burden), too many of them found themselves in a hopeless position after a year or two. It can be asserted with great confidence that a farmer under a good landlord—one with a proper sense of fairness and a liberal outlook on his duty as virtual partner in the use of land—is infinitely better off than the man who has borrowed money for the purchase of his farm. The average farmer has not the means to buy the land as well as farm it, and if he tries—as he did so generally a few years ago—he finds himself crippled for lack of money wherewith to carry on. It is, therefore, good to find men with available capital—and permanent corporations conspicuous among them—ready to buy farms of every type and let them at fair rents, asking only for a good trier as a tenant.

£ s. d. OF OWNERSHIP AND

£ s. d. OF OWNERSHIP AND TENANCY

A CORRESPONDENT, with a turn for figures rather than any acquaintance with the true relation of landlord and tenant, has been calculating the monetary results to landlord and tenant respectively of such long tenancies of farms as were mentioned in these columns a week or two ago. He takes the yearly rent paid and says that over a period of so many years it amounted to enough to buy the holding so many times over. The hypothesis

leaves out of account the possibly large sums spent in the upkeep and improvement of the farm, the years in which, probably, no rent at all was received owing to such seasons as 1879 of melancholy memory, and the convenience to the tenant of having, throughout the whole of the tenancy, had plenty of working capital, and having been free, if he chose, to move to fresh fields and pastures new, instead of being tied down to a particular holding until he could find a buyer.

The association of a good landowner and a good tenant goes far beyond mere monetary relationship, and that is why, happily, there are still tenant-farmers who can point with pride and pleasure to a family tenure by father and son and ofter for three generations or more. However, when death duties—ever increasing and now falling to be paid with a tragical frequency—and other disagreeable matters bring property into the market, the tenants are noticeable competitors for farms, although in some recent instances they have been hopelessly beaten in the bidding, sometimes by farmers from other districts. In such cases the buyer intends to occupy the holding himself, a contrast to the policy of some private purchasers, and especially colleges and insurance companies, which plainly avow their wish that good tenants should go on in occupation. There have been recent sales by farming owners, who offered, before the auctions, to remain as tenants if the buyer approved.

One element of importance in regard to farms has in the last few months become very prominent, namely, the question of the quality of the tenant. From 1883, when the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1875 was repealed and the obligatory Act passed, purchasers, like owners, were more concerned with the amount of the claim by an outgoing tenant than with the tenant's reputation as a farmer. Now it is a commonplace of offers of farms, and of notes of their sale, that the tenant is competent and reliable.

PRIVATE AND OTHER SALES

PRIVATE AND OTHER SALES

PRIVATE AND OTHER SALES

M. R. H. E. W. SIMONS, for Messrs. Farebother, Ellis and Co., offered a North Kent freehold farming and sporting estate, Court Farm, Luddesdown. It lies near both Rochester and Gravesend, and comprises a first-rate residence, ample buildings, some cottages, 135 acres of arable, 245 acres of pasture, and 124 acres of woodland. The house, cottages and buildings, together with 311 acres, have been let at £150 a year, but entry could be made next Michaelmas. The shooting has been let on a like tenancy at £100 a year, and the shooting tenant has offered to continue the tenancy. Luddesdown provides plenty of wild pheasants, heavy bags of partridges, and rabbits innumerable. The freehold failed to evoke an acceptable bid, and it remains for private treaty. It may be mentioned that the road frontages, in proximity to two busy centres, are such as would in ordinary times have proved as much of a draw for bidders as the agricultural and sporting element of the land. This is one of those instances of a good speculation awaiting a spirited buyer.

Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley's private sales this week include one of the choicest small farms in Surrey, between 50 and 60 acres, with a delightful old-fashioned house. Although this was not an auction, it is no secret that there was something like keen competition for the freehold. More of this type of property could find a ready sale through the Hanover Square agency.

Knapp and Cove House Farms, Cricklade, 272 acres, have been sold by Messrs. Nicholas and Messrs. Tilley and Culverwell. Messrs. Nicholas have also sold Grubbs Farm, a mixed holding of

283 acres, in conjunction with Messrs. Woodcocks. The Bristol auction by Messrs. Ford, Howes and Williams realised £34,347 for the executors of the late Mrs. R. G. Burden. Stonehill Farm, Hanham, near Bristol, was sold for £6,500, being 98 acres; adjoining land, 52 acres, £2,700; and 28 acres adjoining that, for £1,700. Wallscourt Farm, 397 acres, at Stoke Gifford, near Bristol, changed hands for £14,200; and 174 acres of bene land at Abbotts Leigh, for £7,000. The Gloucester firm, Messrs. Rylands and Co., the estate agents, supervised the auction.

SIR WOODMAN BURBIDGE'S RED POLLS

OWING to the farm having been let, the entire first-class herd of tuberculin-tested Red Poll cattle maintained for some years by Sir Woodman Burbidge, Bt., at Sandygates Farm, Lower Beeding, near Horsham, is to be dispersed on Friday, September 27th. The sale, which will be conducted on the farm premises by Messrs. John Thornton, Hobson and Co., is one of the most important of the breed that has taken place for some time.

BREDE PLACE, SUSSEX

BREDE PLACE, SUSSEX

The offer of Brede Place on a tenancy by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. concerns a property of much historical and other interest. The manor of Rameslie in the hundred of Guestling, including Brede as well as Rye and Winchelsea, was granted by Edward the Confessor to the Abbey of Fécamp, and confirmed to them by the Conqueror. The manor was transferred by Henry IV to the English abbey of Syon. There was an article on Brede Place in Country Life (Vol. xx, page 630).

Sir Goddard Oxenbridge (who died in 1531) added the Tudor porch and the two-storeyed tower at the south-western corner of the Great Hall, both in the small Tudor bricks of the period, the porch with stone facings; and he also modernised the whole sector of the house south of the Great Hall, adding some 2ft. to the height of the present drawing-room. He also decorated the ground-floor room with a Caen stone fireplace exhibiting Tudor stone windows of eight lights to the east and six lights to the west, divided in the centre by a fluted pier. He must have cut out the chapel, originally extending the whole width of the house, into two, so as to utilise the eastern half for a main staircase, in the process of which the rood screen was removed and used to partition off two-thirds of what was left of the hall, for a kitchen. In 1587 the Elizabethan chimney-stack was erected in the Great Hall, the king-post being destroyed in the process, and the floors were thrown across it. Some party of bricklayers was disturbed at a game of cards during the building, and one of them hid his hand under a brick on the northern chimney bearn, whence it vis extricated 362 years later, in a fair state of preser across the content of the process, and the process, and the process of the proce layers was disturbed at a game of cards during building, and one of them hid his hand unde brick on the northern chimney beam, whence it extricated 362 years later, in a fair state of presertion. Alderman Stephen Frewen of Brickw Northiam, bought most of the estate in 1671; his grandson, Sir Edward, Brede Place itself in 17 Stephen, an alderman of London and member the Skinners' Company, bought Brickwall Northiam from the Whites.

Coming down to recent times, Brede Place lent to the American writer, Stephen Crane, wheld it when a play, jointly written by Henry Jam Robert Barr, George Gissing, Rider Haggard, Jose Conrad, H. B. Marriott-Watson, H. G. Wells, Edward, A. E. W. Mason, and Stephen Crane—produced in Brede village school. Alas! "The Bewas then—destroyed."

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SOLUTION to No. 556

The winner of this crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of September 21st, will be announced next week.

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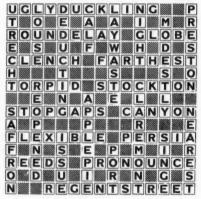
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ACROSS.

- 5. It now houses war relics, not lunatics (6)
- 8. The mountain, not the film
- star (two words, 5, 5)
 9. Goes under for the last time
 (6)
 10. "A green tree" (anagr.) (10)
 13. Comparatively uncommon (5)
- 16. Confused rattles to cause
- 16. Confused rattles to cause alarm (7)
 17 and 18. Not parts of soldiers' bodies: they take bodies of soldiers (10)
 19 and 20. Where wood and metal are both found (6)
 21 and 22. It doesn't sound the right setting for a square deal (two words, 5, 5)
 23. "Joe's inn" (anagr.) (7)
 25. The Cockney might turn these vessels into miners (5)
 28. Fond of company (10)

- 28. Fond of company (10)
- 31. Shut up (5)
 32. Designing men (10)
 33. A little bird in the throat?
 Not a thrush, however (6).

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 557

A prize of books to the value of 2 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 557, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, October 3rd, 1940.

The winner of Crossword No. 555 is

Mrs. Vincent, 5. Wren's View. St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C.4.

DOWN.

1 and 2. Do fruit pickers fling them down as a challenge? (10)

- No doubt he would get messed up in the gore (4) 3. No
- 4. Hebrew father (4)
- 5. Early English historian (4) 6. Legs (two words, 5, 5)
- " Misses rest" (anagr.) (10)
- 11. An arm's length (5)
- 12. Just a little one (3)
- 13. Of course, the navigator does when he alters it (6)
- when he alters it (b)

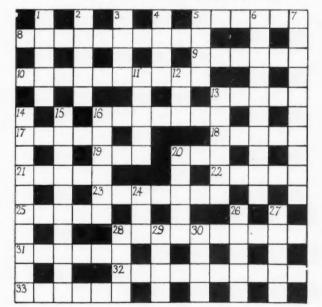
 14. Not an injunction to withhold food from a fish, poor
 thing (10)

 15. Accurately describes "the
 pillar in Fish Street" (10)

 16. The gardener's suit? (6)

 Restoving but not the best
- 20. Bestowing, but not the best
- 20. Bestowing, but not the best (5)
 24. A shock for the vessel (3)
 26. It certainly hasn't an attractive sound (5)
 27. There are 13 cards in 29 of them (5)
 28. This insect gets bowled over by a breath of the sea (4)
 29. Four-fifths of 11 (4)
 30. Related (4).

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 557



Name

Address

OF WINTER COATS AND OTHER MATTERS



A SMART TOWN COAT IN BROWN OR BLACK WITH PERSIAN LAMB TRIMMING. (Swan and Edgar)

The moment our overcoats for the winter are a matter demanding immediate attention, and I think that the two illustrated on this page may be useful in helping some readers to a decision. The one on the left I thought a most attractive affair, its lines are so taking, and the colour of the example which I had photographed was a really lovely shade of wine red. It is lined with silk, and is offered at a very reasonable price by the Stock Size Department of Messrs. Swan and Edgar (Piccadilly Circus, W.I), from whence both coats come. With its very smart shoulders, it is suitable for town or country wear, though for the former some people will prefer its companion, which is carried out in a fancy wool material either in black or brown, with a most graceful full skirt and with Persian lamb to match used very cleverly at the throat and down the front. The very smart hats were from the same shop.

A TRUE "REFRESHER"

I am finding that disturbed nights and sittings in shelters and journeys in crowded trains are making heavy inroads on my stock of lavender water, which is the best thing I know for freshening one after such experiences. Going to replenish it—with Yardley's, of course—I was offered a "purse bottle," most convenient in size, shape and stopper—a very important point—in two sizes, at one shilling and sixpence and two shillings. A great big bottle costs two guineas, and there are nine other sizes between that and half a crown. In a different fashion from a King's Counsel's, this is a true "refresher" in these difficult days.

FREE MILK AND CHEAP MILK

It is quite amazing what a number of people find it difficult to understand official notices, and in this connection

women who have a little time to spare can often prove quite useful to their busier or more muddle-headed neighbours. A countrywoman I know has studied the question of free and cheap milk, and tells me that several people have been glad of her simple explanation of the facts, which is this: "Any child under five years of age, not attending school, and every expectant or nursing mother can have a pint of milk daily for the sum of twopence, and in these cases income is not taken into account. A free pint of milk may be obtained in the same cases where the income is less than forty shillings a week with six shillings added for every dependent member of the household. If there is only one parent or guardian the income must be less than twenty-seven shillings and sixpence, ag in with six shillings added for each dependent. If the head of he household is in receipt of public assistance, unemploym nt assistance or supplementary old age pension, free milk is a so available. The 'Milk Officer' at the local Food Office vill tell applicants how to apply, and little evacuees under five an have twopenny milk if their 'foster-father' will apply for ."

IN PRAISE OF BEETROOT

One of the very nicest vegetables, I think, is beeth of boiled and served piping hot with white sauce if it is to accompany meat, and with cheese sauce as a supper dish. But many of us have grown more than we are likely to use in this way, and I can assure them that beetroot pickle is well worth making. Boil the roots whole and unbroken for an hour and a half in slightly salted water, cool, peel, cut in slices, and cover with spiced vinegar made by bringing to boiling point in a covered pan (not brass, copper or iron) a quart of good vinegar with a quarter of an ounce extra of cinnamon bark, cloves, all-spice and mace. Use after it has stood for two hours.

ISABEL CRAMPTON



Dover Street Studios
IN WINE RED WOOLLEN MATERIAL WITH CLEVER SHOULDE S
(Swan and Edgar)

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THE WEEK'S

ROSINOS PACIS Nº 9



Remember to turn on the Wireless at 8.15 every morning.

"AN army marches on its stomach." In this war, where every kitchen is in the front line, we all march on our stomachs.

Today science offers to help us to victory on the kitchen front. Everyone knows that certain foods are needed for energy and for body-building. But do you realise that other foods (rich in

vitamins and mineral salts) are essential for protecting us from illness? Below there is a list of these 'medicine' foods, which science calls the protective foods. Read on if you want to know what to eat for health.

ON THE KITCHEN FRONT

CHIEF PROTECTIVE FOODS

Milk	Potatoes
Butter or	Green Vegetables
Margarine	(fresh or canned
Cheese	but not dried)
Eggs	Salads
Herrings (fresh.	Fruit (fresh or
canned or salt)	canned but not
Salmon (fresh or	Carrots
canned)	Tomatoes
I irrer	Wholemeal Bread

TWO WAYS OF PRESERVING TOMATOES.

Tomato Puree. Wash the tomatoes and cut in quarters; heat in a covered saucepan until they are quite soft. A quarter-ounce of salt and a quarter-ounce of sugar to each two pounds of tomatoes may be added if desired. Rub the pulp through a sieve. Return it to the pan and reheat. Pour immediately into clean hot jars and seal either with mutton fat. or with three or four rounds of thin paper brushed with homemade paste and pressed down firmly one on top of the other over the neck of each jar.

Skinned whole Tomatoes in Brinc. Blanch the tomatoes in boiling water for about half-a-minute; then put in cold water. Peel the tomatoes and pack in screwband or clip-top jars. Cover with brine made from half an ounce of salt to one quart of water. A very little sugar (about a quarter of an ounce) may be added to the brine if desired. Sterilise in the same way as for bottled fruit, but raise the temperature to 190° F. in 1½ hours and maintain this temperature for 30 minutes.

SWEDES AND TURNIPS EN CASSEROLE.

Don't always eat your swedes and turnips with meat. They are excellent food and make a satisfying course by themselves. Peel 2 lbs. of swedes or turnips and cut them into fairly large pieces. Fry lightly and place them in a hot casserole with a well-fitting lid. Season well and just cover with stock. Put on the lid and cook in a moderate oven for about 1 hour, or until tender. Sprinkle the dish with chopped parsley before serving it.

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, LONDON, S.W.

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38, St. John Street.

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PITLOCHRY HYDRO HOTEL.

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SUTHERLANDSHIRE

WIGTOWNSHIRE

WALES

DOLGELLEY
COLDEN LION ROYAL HOTEL

MENAI BRIDGE.
GAZELLE HOTEL,
GLYN GARTH.
SAUNDERSFOOT, TENBY.
ST BRIDGE HOTEL

LAIRG. Altnaharra Hotel.

STRANRAER.

CAPEL CURIG. TYN-Y-COED HOTEL.

LLANGOLLEN.
THE HAND HOTEL.

SCOURIE. HOTEL SCOURIE.

SKELMORLIE.

TROON.

ROTHESAY. GLENBURN HOTEL.

ST. ANDREWS. THE GRAND HOTEL

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ONICH.
CREAG-DHU HOTEL.

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BOVEY TRACEY
BLESHEIM GUEST HOUSE BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.

DARTMOUTH.

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LEE. LEE BAY HOTEL. LIFTON. THE ARUNDELL ARMS.

LYNTON. MODBURY (S. DEVON).

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(near Moretonhampstead).

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DORSETSHIRE

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STUDLAND BAY.

DURHAM

DURHAM.

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WESTERHAM.

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GRANTHAM. HOLBEACH.

LINCOLN. WHITE HART HOTEL. STAMFORD.

MONMOUTH

LLANGIBBY

NORFOLK

BLAKENEY.

HUNSTANTON. LE STRANGE ARMS GOLF LINKS HOTEL. GOLDEN LION HOTEL.

HASTINGS. QUEEN'S HOTEL.

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FOTHERINGHAY. KETTERING.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

NR. RETFORD. BARNBY MOOR. YE OLDE BELL

OXFORDSHIPE

OXFORD.

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ILMINSTER.
HOTEL

MINEHEAD.
BEACH HOTEL.
HOTEL METROPO

ALDEBURGH-ON-SEA. BURY ST. EDMUNDS. BARTON MILLS (near Bury St. Ed THE BULL INN

FELIXSTOWE. LOWESTOFT. SOUTHWOLD.

CHURT (near Farnham). GODALMING.
THE LAKE HOTEL

HASLEMERE. KINGSWOOD (WARREN).

SANDERSTEAD..

BEXHILL. BRIGHTON. BRIGHTON (SALTDEAN). CROSS-IN-HAND.
Possingworth Park Hotel.

PETERBOROUGH

MINSTER LOVELL. THE OLD SWAN.

CHURCH STRETTON.

ALLERFORD, MINEHEAD. HOLNICOTE HOUSE HOTEL.

HOLFORD.

STAFFORDSHIRE ECCLESHALL (near).
BISHOPS OFFLEY MANOR, GUESTHOUSE. UTTOXETER.

SUFFOLK ILKLEY.
THE MIDDLETON HOTEL. SCARBOROUGH. ROYAL HOTEL.

SOUTH STAINLEY
(near Harre

SURREY GUILDFORD (Dear). Newlands Corner Hotel.

PEASLAKE (near Guildfo

WEYBRIDGE. WIMBLEDON. SOUTHDOWN HALL HOTEL.

ALFRISTON.

CROWBOROUGH.
HOTEL, Tel. 394. HOTEL. I

HOVE. New Imperial Hotel. KIRDFORD, BILLINGHURST.

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GRASMERE.

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LANGDALE CHASE HOTEL.
RIGG'S CROWN HOTEL.

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MARLBOROUGH.
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WORCESTERSHIRE

BROADWAY.
DORMY GUEST HOUSE.
(Broadway Golf Club).
THE LYGON ARMS. DROITWICH SPA.

GAIRLOCH.
GAIRLOCH HOTEL.
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LONDONDERRY. Newton House Hotel.

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BUTLER ARMS HOTEL.
BAY VIEW HOTEL.
WHITTEGATE (Hunting District)
(Co. CORK).

NORTHERN IRELAND

SCOTLAND

ARGYLLSHIRE

BANGOR (Co. DOWN).

BELFAST. GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL.

PORTRUSH.

KIMELFORD.

LOCH AWE. LOCH AWE HOTEL.

OBAN.

TOBERMORY (Isle of Mull). WESTERN ISLES HOTEL.

FOREIGN HOTELS

CEYLON COLOMBO.
GALLE FACE HOTEL. KANDY. OUEEN'S HOTEL.

JAPAN

KOBE. ORIENTAL HOTEL.

AFRICA

KENYA COLONY (THIKA)

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